

Music development plan summary:

Howden School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	January 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Alanah Bell (Teacher of Music)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Gareth Hughes (Faculty Leader of PE & P.Arts)
Name of local music hub	East Riding Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Noise Academy

Part A: Curriculum music

Our curriculum includes the following elements, specifically highlighted by the non-statutory guidance:

- 1-hour weekly lessons (KS3 which is on a carousel with Drama)
- 3-hours weekly lessons (KS4)
- Singing/Vocal Performance
- Listening and Appraising
- Composing/ Songwriting
- Performing/ Instrumental Performance
- Class instrumental ensembles
- Improvisation
- Reading Notation

Musical Opportunities in class at Howden School;

In class keyboard through Y8 – Y9.

In class opportunities to try other instruments including African Drums, Ukelele's and guitars.

Opportunities for performance and instrumental/vocal work occur almost every lesson, whether on a solo, pair, or group basis.

Pupils may be directed using sheet music to build on a stimulus of a short melody or chords, taught as a large group, or rehearse independently, in pairs or in small groups.

Further Qualifications

Eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts

The Music pathway of the Eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts offers students a practical, industry-focused experience that develops them as confident, creative and reflective musicians.

Students explore the professional world of music performance, learning how musicians rehearse, refine and present work to an audience. They develop technical control of their instrument or voice, improve ensemble skills, and learn how to respond to a creative brief — just as working musicians do.

Throughout the course, students will:

- Develop instrumental or vocal technique
- Rehearse and perform both solo and ensemble pieces
- Explore different musical styles and genres
- Interpret and respond to a performance brief
- Reflect critically on their own and others' performances
- Understand roles and responsibilities within the music industry

Students gain first-hand experience of the rehearsal process — planning, refining and adapting their work — while building resilience, communication skills and performance confidence. The qualification emphasises practical learning, creativity and teamwork, mirroring real-world expectations within the performing arts sector.

Assessment combines internal coursework with an externally set assignment, allowing students to demonstrate both their creative development process and final performance skill

2026/2027 courses

At Key Stage 4, we offer the AQA GCSE in Music (8271) (starting 26-27). This qualification brings theory, listening and composition to life in new and engaging ways, enabling learners to develop subject specific knowledge and skills catering to a wide range of learning styles and musical tastes.

The subject content for this qualification is divided into three components of equal importance:

Understanding music: Learners must attentively listen to, and analyse musical elements, contexts and musical language of unfamiliar music from four different areas of study.

Performing music: Students have the opportunity to perform live instrumental/vocal music as a soloist and in an ensemble. Students will develop their ability to interpret, express and communicate musical ideas through different musical elements such as accuracy, phrasing and dynamics appropriate to the style/mood of the piece.

Composing music: Students will learn how to develop and manipulate musical ideas to compose music of different styles. One composition will be created in response to an externally set brief, the other composed piece of music will be a free composition.

Part B: Co-curricular Music (Music Tuition and Extra-curricular Music)

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

At Howden School, pupils have the opportunity to receive high-quality small-group/individual tuition on a variety of instruments which include;

- Upper Strings
- Woodwind
- Guitar
- Drums
- Voice
- DJ/Music Production

These lessons take place during the school day in the practice rooms and are provided by the East Riding Music Service. The DJ lessons are provided by Noise Academy.

ENSEMBLES

Pupils currently have the opportunity to join the Howden School choir.

We are hoping to extend the ensemble provision in the near future to include a variety of instrumental ensembles.

Pupils can borrow instruments from school for practice (this is free) and there are practice rooms available before school and during some breaks and lunches for private practice and small group rehearsal.

Part C: Musical events and performances.

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

As we are currently transitioning to new staff and a new curriculum, chances for events and live performances are limited. This will be changing soon.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

As of September 2026, the school will be offering a stand alone music qualification in the form of AQA GCSE Music. This will then be effected in changes to the KS3 curriculum to ensure students are best prepared to take on the KS4 course.

We hope to be able to expand our co-curricular offer by increasing the amount of instrumental teaching time available, as well as increasing the opportunities for pupils to experience live performance.

The long-term vision includes plans for events such as;

- Choir performances
- Summer Showcases/Talent Events
- Primary School Evenings
- School Productions in conjunction with the Drama department.