Music development plan summary: Stockport School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023 – 2024 and 2024-2025
Date this summary was published	August 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Rachel Didcote
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ms Belinda Schofield
Name of local music hub	Stockport Music Service within the Greater Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

Stockport School delivers music education to all our pupils through a combination of compulsory music curriculum at Key Stage 3, providing options in both Music and Music Technology at Key Stage 4 level and providing a large variety of opportunities and musical experiences within our co-curricular provision at all age ranges.

Our main ethos in the Music Department at Stockport School is music for all.

Our core aims:

The core of our Music Curriculum is to **engage** and **Inspire** (whether that is within the classroom or outside of it).

Engaging and inspiring our students involves:

- 1. providing students with the skill set to go onto the next step by taking up a **career** in music or becoming a professional musician.
- 2. helping students to understand what an amazing **hobby** music can be for them around their chosen career pathways and the benefits music can have in **mental** health and well-being.
- 3. teaching our students valuable **transferrable skills** that can be applied to other curriculum areas or their life.

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Stockport School is an 11-16 Secondary School with almost 1350 students on roll.

Our Key Stage 3 Curriculum allows **all** pupils to study music. Time allocation includes:

- once a week in Year 7 and 8
- and once a fortnight in Year 9.

At Key Stage 4, students have an option to study:

- AQA GCSE Music which allows learners to study a wide variety of musical
 genres whilst developing their practical performing and composing skills. The
 course allows learners to go onto study courses such as A Level Music/Music
 Technology, Level 3 Diplomas or other BTEC style courses. Students opting for
 this course will receive 5 lessons a fortnight in year 10 commencing September
 2024 and 6 lessons a fortnight in year 11.
- Those students who do not study a language have an option to choose the NCFE Level 1/2 Award in Music Technology which offers an introduction to Music Technology and a more vocational, project-based approach to lead into careers in the Music Industry. Lessons take place mainly in our purpose-built Music Technology Suite consisting of 20 DAW's (Digital Audio Workstations). Learners opting to take this qualification receive 7 lessons a fortnight in year 1 and 6 lessons a fortnight in year 2. They will study the qualification over a two-year period between year 9 and 10 as of September 2024.

The curriculum in more detail:

Key Stage 3 Music

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum has been driven by post-pandemic recovery and guidance outlined in the "National Plan – The Power of Music To Change Lives" as well as taking into account the "National Curriculum" and "Striking the right note" documents.

There are three strands that run throughout our topics that you will see clearly in our schemes of work:

- Performing
- Composing
- Listening and understanding.

Running alongside these three strands, all pupils develop certain **music specific instrument skills** that they explore.

For example, learning to:

- sing within a class ensemble.
- play the keyboard.
- play the Ukulele.
- play a range of tuned and un-tuned percussion such as Xylophones, Djembe's, Boomwhackers and Samba sets.
- improvise.

Wrapped around these specific musical instrument skills pupils build a range of **transferrable skills** that again run throughout our topics at Key Stage 3 such as:

- Group work.
- Co-ordination.
- Creativity.
- Building confidence.
- Building Self-esteem.
- Motor skills.

The curriculum schemes of work at Key Stage 3 have a title to summarise the direction that the year will take and the skills that will be developed. These are listed below.

Year 7

"Sparking musical curiosity through being introduced to instruments and singing".

Year 8

"Culture & Creativity (composing, performing and listening within a context)".

Year 9

"Collaborative music making (developing a love for creating music together)".

There is a specifically designed **assessment system** in place at Key Stage 3 that allows learners to move up a coloured skill ladder in the three skills of listening, performing and composing. They are introduced to this system early on in Year 7 and develop an understanding of what they need to work on and how to improve their work by using the easy-to-understand criteria surrounding this colour assessment system.

Access for all/SEND in the Music Curriculum:

All students participate in Music at Stockport School through our inclusive curriculum. Although some adaptions may need to be made, students with SEND still receive a high-quality music education with the ability to access all aspects of the curriculum and a chance to build their skills. Some of our SEND students have gone on to have careers in the Music Industry and we encourage all to thrive within our musical space. Teachers within the department receive SEND training and work with our SEND department to design lessons that are accessible for all. Music teaching staff have an awareness of pupils needs in the classroom and adapt the lessons and resources accordingly. Successful differentiation allows all learners to make progress within the music classroom. Examples of adaptions may include:

- Careful consideration of the best seat in the room for a particular student.
- Providing individual instructions.
- Chunking instructions.
- Scaffolding learning into steps.
- Adapting font size.
- Use of timer tools when on individual or group work tasks.
- Using a calm and consistent approach.
- Controlling, adapting group sizes in group work pieces/class ensembles.
- Checking in with pupils regularly to ensure they are on task.
- · Use of praise.
- Avoiding putting a certain on the spot with questioning.
- Allowing a student to work by themselves for example when on keyboards.
- Adapting the audience size for a performance to begin with e.g. one to one performance rather than in front of the whole class.

Noise sensitivity

The music department can be a loud space when creating whole class ensembles which for some students with additional Special Educational Needs can be a challenge. We aim to identify our SEND students quickly and create any adaptions needed to allow all pupils to participate. This may involve:

- Changing a seat position
- Using a slightly quieter breakout space still within the music department.
- Wearing headphones to take out some of the louder volumes.

Access to the building

The Music Department is accessed by a ramp with a railing into the downstairs area. Due to an upstairs and a downstairs classroom, students in a wheelchair or with mobility issues on stairs can still access their music curriculum by using the downstairs classroom spaces, practice rooms and music technology facilities.

The music department at Stockport School has a range of facilities and equipment to allow the above curriculum to take place.

Facilities:

The Music Department is situated in its own block and consists of:

- **Two main teaching classrooms** each featuring 16 electric keyboards and 30 Ukulele's around the outside of the rooms.
- A computer suite containing 20 workstations all featuring Cubase, Sibelius and Scarlett Focusrite audio interfaces allowing students to record, edit and mix their music.
- A separate compact recoding space with a control room housing a mixer, speakers, and a range of dynamic and condenser microphones. (This space also doubles up as a practice room).
- Practice Room 1 contains amplifiers, an upright piano and electric piano.
- **Practice Room 2** is a slightly larger room for woodwind, strings, brass lessons that features a Yamaha U3 upright piano.
- **Practice Room 3** features a drum kit and guitar rack with a range of acoustic, electric, and bass guitars as well as guitar amplifiers.
- A store cupboard allows pupils to bring in their own instruments and keep them safe during the day.
 - (When practice rooms are not being used by additional peripatetic music tutors, pupils have the option to use the spaces to carry out their own individual practice or rehearsals).

Musical Equipment:

Alongside the **keyboards** and **ukuleles** housed within the teaching spaces students also have access to:

- Boomwhackers
- Bamboo Tamboo's
- A whole class Djembe drum set.
- A whole class Samba set.
- Two drum kits
- 4 upright pianos
- 5 full sized keyboard/electric pianos.
- A grand piano in the main hall.
- A range of brass, woodwind and string instruments that are available to be loaned out for free.
- A range of acoustic, electric and bass guitars and amplifiers.

Part B: Co-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.

Here at Stockport School the core curriculum and co-curricular of the Music Department work hand in hand. The magic and spark for the subject are encouraged in the classroom which feeds into a successful extra-curricular programme. The music department is not only a fun and enjoyable place to be outside of lesson time but also a 'safe' space where students can go at break and lunch.

Peripatetic music tuition:

We have a team of **nine peripatetic tutors** that come into Stockport School each week to teach one to one specific instrumental lessons. The well-qualified and inspiring tutors are hand-picked by the school. These additional lessons are one to one, 20-minute lessons and are paid for by parents if not entitled to Pupil Premium funding. Prices are kept as low as possible by our tutors and are much cheaper than most private teachers. For example, the prices for peripatetic music lessons in 2024-2025 are £50 per half term which works out around £8 a lesson. Additional lessons are offered in:

- Piano/Keyboard (plus accordion).
- Drums/Percussion.
- Strings (Violin, Viola).
- Singing.
- Guitar (Acoustic, Electric, Bass, Ukulele).
- Brass.
- Woodwind (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone).

In the academic year 2023-2024, 161 students participated in additional one to one lessons.

Inclusion (Pupil Premium funding)

Stockport School funds peripatetic music lessons for any pupil premium child who wishes to sign up to learn an instrument meaning that money does not have to be a barrier for any student at the school in furthering their music skills.

The school also funds music for any pupil who opts to take GCSE music so that they are not disadvantaged by not having one to one lessons on the instrument they will be assessed on.

Out of the 161 students participating in peripatetic music lessons in 2023-2024, 52 pupils were pupil premium meaning that around 32% of those having lessons were provided for by the school.

To further support our Pupil Premium students, revision books are also provided free of charge and where support is needed, a music exam grade may be funded by school or music books purchased to aid learning. We have also in the past part funded/fully funded music trips to help pupil premium students to participate in our extra-curricular activities.

Instrument loan

We also have a range of musical instruments in the department, and we offer a **free instrument loan system** to anyone needing an instrument for as long as they are a student at Stockport School and attending lessons. Therefore, all students have access to learning an additional instrument should they wish. We are currently unable to loan out keyboards and drum kits but have plenty of guitars, violins, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, cornets, tenor horns, euphoniums etc.

Our four practice rooms also provide students with the ability to practise in a quiet space at break, lunch or after school should they require.

Extra-curricular ensembles and opportunities

We have a full range of ensembles that are **all free of charge** to attend at Stockport School. These take place during lunchtimes or after school enrichment slots and are run by the Music Department staff (either Teaching staff or peripatetic tutors).

The current offer in the academic year 2024-2025 is:

- Concert Band (all years, any instrument and standard allowed, after school).
- MT pop choir (all years invited but predominantly KS3 attendance, after school).
- String Group (All years and abilities, lunch).
- Music Tech Club (All years, lunch)
- Show singing rehearsals (All years, lunch and afterschool, cast only).
- Samba Band (All Year 7 invited, lunch)
- **Dementia Choir** (once a month, applications for membership, all years, daytime)
- **Year 11 Rock Band** rehearsals x 3 (Apollo, Silver Lining, Procrastination)
- Year 10 Rock Band rehearsal (student led, lunch)
- Year 8 Rock Band rehearsal (lunch)

Additional opportunities

Stockport School falls within the Greater Manchester Music Hub area and the local music service (Stockport Music Service).

https://www.stockportmusicservice.org.uk/

https://gmmusichub.co.uk/

Some of our musicians attend additional weekend/evening activities run by the Stockport Music Service for example the Strings Orchestra, Wind Band etc.

We liaise with the Stockport Music Service and attend network meetings where possible to make connections and find out about further opportunities for our musicians which can then be shared with our students.

This is a great tool for providing our more able, even more opportunities outside of our own bubble.

We have worked with the Stockport Music Service/Greater Manchester Music Hub in the academic year 2023-2024 by entering two of our Year 10 rock bands into the Battle of the Bands 2024 event which was a fantastic performance and learning experience for these students.

Stockport School has also developed a partnership with CDL which has allowed for an enriching and inspiring musical project to take place each year with a local orchestra, The Northern Chamber Orchestra. This allows several of our year 7 students as well as our GCSE musicians to be introduced to classical music in a live collaborative performance whilst enhancing composing skills. (Further information about this can be found in part C).

In addition to our formal Key Stage 4 qualifications, students taking part in our additional peripatetic music lessons are given the opportunity to take graded exams on an instrument should they wish for example with the ABRSM, Rock School, Trinity Exam boards. Although this is not a popular option in the current climate due to the costs of these grades, tutors often work through material from these graded books to allow students to build the required skills to progress in their musical ability.

Part C: Musical experiences

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.

Each term allows students the opportunity to take part in a musical event. Some of these are a showcase of the work taking place in extra-curricular clubs whereas others are for a certain year group or cohort. Below is a list of the typical events that take place each calendar year:

Autumn Term:

- Show (Musical over 5 performances October)
- Performances at Open Evening (October)
- Year 7 Music Concert and House Competition (November) all of Year 7
- Christmas Concert (December)
- Dementia Choir performances e.g. St Mary's Carol Concert or Care Home.

Spring Term

- Northern Chamber Orchestra Project (January/February) Year 7 and GCSE
- Battle of the Bands GM music hub (February)
- Band Night (April/May)

Summer Term

Summer Concert/Great Moor Music Festival/Doing Dementia Differently/Music Tour.

Please find below a more detailed analysis of each event including typical numbers, prices etc.

Show (Musical)

Each year, Stockport School puts on a Musical the week before October half term. Auditions take place just before Easter but all students who want to be involved are given a role. The auditions are there to discover the casting of the lead roles, but all students will be in the show who want to be. We also have a separate tech team run by our IT staff who are trained up on the sound and lighting meaning that the tech can be student led on the nights of the show under supervision of the tech team and music department staff. In addition, students can sign up to help with the make-up, set design, costumes and props.

Numbers of students involved	Approx 60 students
Frequency	One show per academic year.
Years	Students from Years 7-11. Year 7 are added in on arrival
Cost for students involved	It is free to be in the show. On occasions students are asked to source small costume items but where finances are a problem, the SSODS show fund pot will support those in need.
Cost for audience	To allow the show to take place each year we do have to charge parents/carers/audience members to watch but we work hard to ensure it is not too expensive. In 2023-2024 it was £6 for adults and £4 for pupils. (236 tickets available per show).
Primary school audience	We hold a primary dress run on the first day of the show which is free to our feeder primaries who are invited to watch.
Staff involved	Around 14-16 per night.
Show advertised with all students at Stockport School and all years invited to get tickets.	

Open Evening

A small number of our gifted and talented students will be asked to perform on Open Evening in the main hall for prospective parents. This may be one of our Rock Bands or our soloists e.g. singers/piano players. It is a chance for our student music leads.

Year 7 Music Concert and House Competition

This event is a prestigious event on the school calendar and brings together the whole year group in a fun, filled and team building music extravaganza. It brings together Heads of Year, Heads of Houses, Form Tutors and the whole of Year 7. Each form prepares a form song in their music curriculum lessons where they work hard to build their singing skills. Additional auditions take place for musical soloists and a final set of students are chosen for the solo spots. House points are awarded for various aspects including auditioning for a solo which encourages students to come forward. The Concert night features two concerts, one for the X side of the year and one for the Y side of the year allowing parents/carers to watch their child perform in their whole form song. To provide a fun twist and to feed into our values and house system, the event is judged, and house points awarded for lots of inclusive categories. This whole event builds teamwork, confidence, self-esteem and performance skills whilst also helping us to find our gifted and talented musicians in the year.

Numbers of students involved	All students involved in the singing preparations unless exempt due to religious beliefs.
	All students asked to attend the concert with a good turnout of around 220 each year.
Frequency	One show per academic year.
Years	All of Year 7. Year 10/11 musicians help out on the evening to coordinate the forms.
Cost for students involved	Free
Cost for audience	£1 a ticket (270 tickets available per concert)
Staff involved	Around 18 staff.

Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert usually takes place in the last week of the Autumn 2 term and is a celebration of all that the extra-curricular clubs have been working on since September. It features all the musical ensembles plus a range of soloists that will have come forward to volunteer to showcase their work.

Numbers of students involved	Approx 60 students
Frequency	One show per academic year.
Years	Students from Years 7-11
Cost for students involved	Free
Cost for audience	£2 a ticket (200 tickets available)
Staff involved	Approx 10 helping/involved and several in the audience.

Dementia Choir

Stockport School are delighted to be involved in the EDUCATE Doing Dementia Differently Choir made up of around 25 students from years 7-11 and adults living with early onset Dementia in the Stockport area. This is a choir at the heart of our community which brings such joy to all involved. As of 2022, the Director of Music at Stockport School has become musical director of the Dementia Choir but was involved with the choir since 2017 when it first started up. It aims to emphasise the message of 'living well with Dementia' and the hugely importance of 'the power of music'. The choir have performed over the years in many different venues including Stockport Town Hall, a variety of Stockport Care Homes, Stockport Plaza and were also featured in Episode 2 of Vicky McClure's BBC 1 Documentary, "Our Dementia Choir Sings Again" in 2022. The choir were instrumental in Stockport School winning the 'School in the Community Award' by the MEN. Pupils from the choir in 2023 were also chosen to speak at the final of the Goldsmith's Award in London where we had been shortlisted down to the last 8 schools out of over 130 applicants. Also in 2023, the Choir performed to their biggest audience yet at Stockport Plaza. With around 1000 in the audience, coordinated by the Director of Music, the event brought together students and adults of all ages. Students from the choir spoke brilliantly about their own experiences in the choir and with Dementia in their own families, dancers from the school joined a live big band on stage as did singing soloists. It was a huge spectacular involving students from Stockport School and our feeder Primary Great Moor who also performed. The choir continues to meet around once a month at Stockport School and new members are gradually added as year 11 students leave. Each year involves discussions about what next and after they performed in our Community Awards Evening in July 2024, we are excited to make plans for future performances in 2024-2025.

Northern Chamber Orchestra Project (Link with professional musicians)

Stockport School have been involved in an inspiring musical collaboration project with the professional Northern Chamber Orchestra each Spring term since 2017. It has kindly been funded by CDL which is a local software company in Stockport. The ability to provide cultural capital and introduce students to the world of Classical music through interactive workshops and concerts is so powerful. Watching the faces of our students and feeder primary students hearing an orchestra for the first time and hearing what they can compose in a short window is such a joy to us. The orchestra and Director of Music work together to design the project each year. In February 2024, the project involved 61 year 7, 22 year 9 and 14 year 10 students being chosen to take part in an interactive workshop with two members of the NCO. They listened to them play, took part in performance games and composed fragments of melodies/chords that were then turned into an orchestral piece in a Rondo form. Great Moor Primary School and St George's Primary also took part in workshops and joined us in our school hall for the Concert Day. The concert day resulted in the World-famous musician, Matt Sharp flying over from France to help lead the day at school. The Rondo piece premiered first in front of around 120 students from Stockport School and the two Primaries. The audience heard the Northern Chamber Orchestra play a variety of music including the GCSE music set work. Elevating things to a new level in 2024, not only did 50 of our student's perform with the Orchestra at school but 12 students were invited to join the full orchestra at Stockport Town Hall on stage to premiere the Stockport School Rondo piece to the public. With a further sixteen students and their families in the audience too, this took the whole project to another level. It is wonderful that the orchestra provided students with a free ticket to the Town Hall concert along with a heavily discounted parent ticket (£5). The Music Department are currently planning the next project for Feb 2025.

Numbers of students involved	Approx 120 students
Frequency	Once a year.
Years	Students from Primary, Year 7, 9, 10, 11
Cost for students involved	Free
Cost for audience	Free

Band Night (April/May)

This has been running since May 2023 and is a new event designed to provide a 'gig' like experience for our ever-growing Rock Bands here at Stockport School. It is an informal night that takes place in the Drama (Simon Stephens Studio) which allows for a cool 'gig' like venue with lighting and a standing audience. 2023 featured three rock bands perform from Year 9 and 10. 2024 featured four rock bands perform from year 7, and 10. We are looking forward to finding new rock bands in the next year 7 cohort and mentoring a new year 9 rock band transition into year 10 in 2024-2025.

Numbers of students involved	Approx 14 students
Frequency	Once a year.
Years	2024 – 7 and 10.
Cost for students involved	Free
Cost for audience	£2 (50 tickets available)

Battle of the Bands in partnership with the Greater Manchester Music Hub and Stockport Music Service.

Stockport School entered this event for the first time in February 2024 and it was a wonderful experience. We entered two of our Year 10 Rock Bands to the local area heats of the Greater Manchester Battle of the Bands. It was an incredibly invaluable experience for our two rock bands as they needed to handle their nerves performing in front of a new audience, judges, other bands from the areas and using equipment that they hadn't used before. It was a wonderful stretch and challenge opportunity for our gifted musicians which allowed them to hear what other musicians of a similar age are up to. This is something we will aim to get involved in again in the future with any particularly gifted rock bands.

Numbers of students involved	11 students
Frequency	Once a year (depending on rock band levels)
Years	Year 10/11
Cost for students involved	Free
Cost for audience	£3 each (just two people allowed per band member).

Summer Term Events

Our summer term musical experiences are different each year depending on what big event we have got planned. In 2023 it was the Doing Dementia Differently Extravaganza at Stockport Plaza.

Music Tour

In July 2024 the Music Department went on a Germany Music Tour with 40 pupils from Stockport School. The aim of the tour was to go to the Rhine and Moselle regions of Germany and to perform two concerts to the German public. It also provided a cultural

experience and reward for all the hard work and commitment that our musicians at school have displayed. (The last music tour was in 2018 due to the pandemic).

The 2024 tour was a huge success with two performances in Germany, one in Boppard and one in Andernach. The performances included pieces by our Choir, Concert Band, Soloists and three Rock Bands. Alongside the concerts students went on a boat trip along the Moselle, visited Cochem, Beilstein, Koblenz, Boppard, Andernach and Bruttig-Fankel. They had a train ride round Koblenz, went up the Cable Car, visited the Fortress, played Adventure Golf, went to the Phantasialand theme park and played games on the green outside their hotel. It truly was a team building and cultural experience for all involved. There are no current plans to do another tour yet due to costings, but we were delighted so many musicians from 7-11 got to be involved in this.

Numbers of students involved	40 students (5 staff)
Frequency	Once every 4-5 years
Years	7-11
Cost for students involved	£729 per person. (Discounts for pupil premium available on request)
Cost for audience	Free for German public to attend the concerts.

Great Moor Infants Music Festival

We usually are invited to perform in July each year at the Great Moor Infants Music Festival which is an outside performance to a large number of Primary parents. In the past we have taken the choir/rock bands/string group/soloists to perform. It is free for our students to be involved in and free to watch. Typically we have around 20 students in attendance from years 7-11 to make it manageable as a trip between the two music staff. This is a lovely event in our local community and there are plans for it to happen in 2025.

Numbers of students involved	20 students
Frequency	Typically once a year
Years	7-10
Cost for students involved	Free
Cost for audience	Free

In the future

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

Curriculum Music

We would like to see the following areas considered in future timetabling:

- Bringing Music Technology back into the rotation curriculum at Key Stage 3 so
 that students can have a taster and introduction to the subject before Key Stage
 4. There is a need to explore more Music Technology in the Key Stage 3
 curriculum with all students rather than just those involved in the Music Tech
 club or the Tech team.
- Increasing Year 9 music back up to once a week to bring curriculum time back in line with the recommendations by the Government.

Also, funding to update the Music Technology hardware in the computer suite for example audio interfaces which have been in the department along time and are starting to fail.

Co-curricular Music

- Continue to provide the huge variety of extra-curricular clubs.
- Continue to build and promote peripatetic music lessons to maintain and even increase numbers taking up the opportunities.
- Finding ways to promote Woodwind, Brass and String instruments which have seen a huge decline in popularity.
- Continue to build extracurricular numbers and find ways to keep regular numbers at weekly rehearsals.
- Establishing links with music leads at feeder primary schools so that musicians can have a smooth transition to secondary school and continue their journey which will boost numbers in extracurricular activities. (Some can give up their music between Primary and Secondary).
- Continue to raise logistics of the music block regarding size of downstairs classroom and music technology suite as well as the need for soundproofing between practise rooms and main classrooms. (Funding).

Musical Experiences

- Continue to find opportunities for performances within the community for example with the Dementia Choir. This could include new care homes, events and wider reaching moments e.g. The Plaza.
- Continue to keep links with the Northern Chamber Orchestra and CDL.
- Aim to look out for any more opportunities of 'live performance' for our students by liaising with the local music hub and carrying out more promotion of the local music hub ensembles with our students.