

# Music development plan summary: DRIFFIELD SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM



## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr Ben Couper
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	The East Riding Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

## Part A: Curriculum music

At Driffield School the music curriculum is ambitious, carefully sequenced, inclusive and it enables all learners of mixed abilities to access a variety of music topics. The curriculum is underpinned by the musical elements, the Western Classical Tradition, African Music, Music Around the World and Popular styles and Media. The topics are taught to embed cultures, promote historical, social, geographical thinking, and encourage literacy and reading. The curriculum promotes wellbeing, and has an emphasis on functional skills memory, reading, communication, listening, accuracy and coordination. Students develop transferable employability skills through team work, communication, leadership expression and creativity. The students in Years 7 -9 have a weekly one-hour lesson of music as part of our KS3 curriculum. At KS4, students who have opted to study music attend five hours of music lessons over a fortnight. These students study GCSE Music Qualification AQA 8271 Music. This qualification promotes students' musicianship, composing ability and listening and analytical skills. Our curriculum topics from Years 7 – 11 is accessible using the following link: [Curriculum - Driffield School](#).

All students are supported to actively participate in music. Students from our SEND provision also have access to two lunchtime extra-curricular music and performing arts clubs and instrumental lessons alongside their main music lesson each week.

## 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.

Since 2013, there has been a main school ensemble with around 40+ students, which encourages all instrumentalists to participate from mixed genres classical to pop, vocalists, djembe players and keyboard players. Students also create their own small bands and rehearse their music.

Students have access to instrumental music tuition, delivered by teachers from The East Riding Music Service. Tuition is subsidised by the school, with the parental contribution this academic year being set at £70 per term or £200 for the year. Families entitled to free school meals have the cost subsidised further at £35 per term or £100 for the academic year. Lessons are available on the following instruments:

- Piano/Keyboard
- Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon)
- Strings (violin, viola, cello)
- Brass (Trumpet, Trombone)
- Percussion (Drum kit)
- Voice
- Guitar (Electric, Bass and Acoustic)

Our keyboard and piano lessons are available privately for individual and group lessons.

Students are also encouraged to participate in our annual school production.

There is also a new lunchtime club initiative this year for music and performing arts incorporating a space in the day for belonging and well-being. Students share lunch together each week and choose an activity from dancing, sharing a musical skill, creating some art, open mic performances or singing. The students freely opt into an activity with an emphasis on personal development and belonging. This club has LAC and SEND students attending, who play musical instruments, or like to sing. Although led by the Head of Music, this involves staff supervising from across the school community also.

## Part C: Musical experiences

Music plays an important role across the school and in the wider community. We have been selected by The East Riding Music Service who recognise the value and collaboration of music at Driffield School and so we have become once again a Music Mark School for 2024/2025.

European and UK Music tours (2014 to present):

The Big Ensemble is a weekly extra-curricular activity for our students to learn a mixture of music. This group organised and led by the Head of Music who runs annual music tours in the UK and across Europe. Mr Couper has led seven music tours with an average of 40 students on each tour. The tours have involved concerts in cities and towns in Holland 2014, Germany 2015, Italy 2016, Austria 2018, Madrid in Spain, (2019) Cornwall (2022), Barcelona in Spain (2023). The students also get to experience the local cultures and participate on visits. The next tour is planned to Edinburgh in Scotland for April 2025. The music tours are funded mainly from parental contributions with fundraisers from performances during the year.

There are annual Christmas Concerts involving local community groups. Our 2023 concert involved Kings Mill School choir, a school to support children with additional needs. The concert also involved a music competition which students performed as soloists. Students also participate in our school productions, involving singing or playing in the band supporting the stage production.

Our school community has an annual agricultural show called The Driffeld Show. Our music students attend with other departments and perform music to the visitors attending the show. This is a good opportunity for showcasing the school musicians to the wider community.

We also regularly invite primary schools to visit the school to bridge a link to Year 6 students playing instruments and promote the continuation to secondary school. We also have the East Riding Music Service perform orchestral performances to promote instrumental tuition. The East Riding Music Service also run a woodwind ensemble weekly. Our students also play for celebration events and assemblies.

Students have also had opportunity to visit the theatres to see musicals from local attractions to The West End.

In 2024/2025 Driffield School Music Department is supporting KS3 Year 9 and KS4 year 10 students with composition alongside Music in a Round We Compose Organisation. Students get to work with a professional composer and write compositions for a string quartet. Their work will be performed live in a concert in the summer term. The project supports students' creativity to explore compositional devices and artistry.

## In the future

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

We intend to develop more music technology opportunities for all students in subsequent years. There has been investment in Cubase for KS4 over the past few years equipping a classroom for KS4 student use. There has also been investment in instrument provision for students to access across the department this year.

## Further information (optional)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#). This guide informs students how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.