

Music development plan summary:

Dixons Croxteth Academy – Liverpool

This document is designed to give a summary of the high-quality music provision at this academy in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, considering the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

Key featuresL

Timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stages 1 to 3

Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice

A school choir or vocal ensemble

A school ensemble, band or group

Space for rehearsals and individual practice

A termly school performance

Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the academy music lead	Karen Unsworth
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Silvana Palmeiri
Name of local music hub	Resonate Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dixons Academies Trust - Director of Music, Tamsin Rafnsson

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students’ 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 students can achieve. Enriching lives and offering opportunities to learn outside of the classroom.

Year 7, 8 have one music lesson a week. Year 9 have one music lesson a fortnight – this will be reviewed in September 2026 to increase the amount of time given to music in the curriculum and develop into KS4.

From September 2025 Peripatetic provision and extra curricular groups are on offer and has increased to include ‘Ukulele’ club and music technology in the schools co-curricular program.

Currently on offer:

Keyboard lessons (small groups) Mrs. Unsworth	Piano lessons – External peripatetic
Guitar lessons - Jeremy Lewis (Internal LSA)	
Brass lessons David Chadwick – External peripatetic	
Drum lessons David Chadwick – External peripatetic	
Singing Groups and extra curricular choir - Mrs. Unsworth	
Ukulele lessons - Mrs. Unsworth	
Extra curricular mixed orchestra - Mrs. Unsworth	West African – drumming circle - Mrs Unsworth
Co-Curricular – Music Technology - Mrs. Unsworth	Samba Group – for events and showcases – Mrs. Unsworth

All extra-curricular music lessons are funded for pupils who wish to take up the opportunity to develop their independent musical skills. Currently 80 pupils have taken up on these opportunities at KS3 and attendance is good at peripatetic lessons and after school groups.. Opportunities for regular performances and showcases in school and in the community.

All peripatetic lessons are taught in small groups for a maximum of 20 mins per week – instruments are provided.

The department has an open-door policy on the days Mrs. Unsworth is in school to allow pupils to rehearse independently and use the school resources.

Students explore performing, listening & appraising in music lessons through practical work they develop skills individually and as a team.

The curriculum explores a wide range of musical styles and genres allowing personal progress and refinement in musical skills and knowledge Progress in music requires pupils to develop musically across 3 pillars that interrelate in musicianship (Technical, Constructive and Expressive skills) These are refined and revisited throughout the scheme while learning and appreciating music from different cultures and genres building cultural capital, appreciation and a lifelong love of music in our students.

Our Key Stage 3 music curriculum is designed with purpose to build a strong foundation of musical understanding, ensuring students are well-prepared for further musical study and students are encouraged to participate in the school's musical life and developing culture. By the end of Year 9, students will have developed aural knowledge, engaged in creative processes, understood musical elements, and improved their fluency in music notation.

Performing, Composing, and Appraising

Performing: Students arrive at Key Stage 3 with limited experience in performing music. Throughout Key Stage 3, they will continue to develop their performance skills through individual and ensemble opportunities, including whole-class and small-group ensembles. Singing, keyboard skills and drum / rhythm work are explored at KS3 allowing for progression and refinement.

Composing: Students engage in creative processes through improvisation and composition. By the end of Year 9, they will be able to form and use primary & secondary chords, create bass lines, melodies, and rhythmic accompaniments, and develop their own compositional voice. Composing using Music Technology is used to support skills in practical / theory work will enhance creativity and embed knowledge.

Listening: Listening activities focus on both technical exercises and exploring musical meaning. Students will gain aural knowledge of significant musical works and styles from a broad range of musical backgrounds, enhancing their overall musical understanding and vocabulary.

At KS3 the pupils will sing regularly and play a variety of instruments to give them a chance to experience creating and performing while developing skills in a variety of instruments – Keyboards drums and music technology are the instruments used the most during the curriculum to allow for individual progression. Students access music technology every half term when the I.T rooms are available to support concepts and skills through use of another medium.

The curriculum is both accessible and challenging for all, so that every student is capable of achieving their personal best under the expert guidance of a specialist music teacher.

This is supported by information from our SEND team which helps music staff adapt teaching to support the needs of every child. By continually developing our curriculum and expanding opportunities for all students, we aim to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive musical community within our school.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This academic year, opportunities for independent peripatetic support for KS3 pupils are available in a number of musical disciplines. Guitar, Drums, Keyboard, Singing, Brass and Ukulele. Pupils who have opted for this receive a small group session for 20 mins. 80 students are currently attending extra-curricular in music. Pupils do not pay for extracurricular lessons and instruments are provided for independent practice. (brass, ukulele, guitar)

Singing and orchestra are done as after school provision. Allowing for a number of pupils to participate in these musical opportunities together with a range of year groups working together – The singing group currently has 24 members and the orchestra has 10 (Sept 25).

The department has an open-door policy which allows pupils in to rehearse when the rooms are available before school, after school and during lunch time.

Co-Curricular Music Technology – One lesson a fortnight year 7 / 8 can choose a co-curricular group – There are about 20 pupils experiencing and gaining skills in music technology during this time.

There are regular opportunities for students to work independently on projects and enter work for consideration for school and house competitions. E.g. Creating music for transitions or Remix a Christmas Carol for the concert. Students work on these at home independently and look forward to feedback on their creativity and showcasing their work.

Pupil Voice – Students opinions for potential activities, transition music, culture events are encouraged and key in the development of the musical culture and provisions in school.



Enrichment Timetable

The department is open from 7.30am to allow students to practice independently or as groups working towards a showcase or concert. The practice rooms are available for students after school even if there is another club rehearsing in the department.

Week A Monday	Week A Thursday	Week A Friday	Week B Tuesday	Week B Wednesday	Week B Thursday	Week B Friday
P.6 Keyboard Lessons	10.30- 12 Drum Kit and Brass Lessons	P.1 1-1 singing			P,1 1-1 Singing 10.30- 12 Drum and Brass Lessons	P.2 Guitar Lessons Rock Band
P,7 Ukulele Lessons					P.5 Co=Curricular Music Technology	
After School Singing Group	Piano lessons	After School Orchestra Samba	After School Singing Group	After School Orchestra		After School Small Ensemble (when required) Independent rehearsal

All pupils are informed and encouraged to attend extra group rehearsals held by the local music hub 'Resonate'. These are advertised and pupils are informed in morning meeting of these sessions. We currently have two pupils attending these on a regular basis.

The school has links with the Valley Brass Band and pupils will be encouraged when available to attend rehearsals on Saturdays to progress and enjoy playing in a group music making environment. Two collaboration concerts are held in the year to allow 'brass' students to work on music to perform with the community group.

Brass days attendance and showcases will be encouraged throughout the year for the pupils playing brass instruments.

Trust Singing Days – This involves a singing teacher from the trust doing workshops with the 3 Liverpool schools – focus on working together in singing.

Part C: Musical experiences

Dixons Croxteth Academy has got talent: this event is being held to allow pupils to participate showcasing creative skills. This event is being run by the pastoral staff which should indicate and highlight more talent within the school giving an opportunity to develop rehearsal skills and performance.

Art exhibition – Showcasing the year 11 artwork – This allows for music pupils to work towards a performance for a small audience to gain experience in performing.

Dixons Liverpool Schools collaboration events – Last academic year the pupils performed in a Christmas Concert with the pupils from the other Liverpool schools. The Croxteth music pupils supported Dixons Fazakerley Summer concert and performed with all the Dixons schools in a collaboration concert in Bradford.

December 2025 we will be showcasing pupils talent in music, drama and dance in our own Christmas Concert to celebrate and promote the hard work and dedication the pupils have shown in music.

Community singing event – links are starting to develop with Liverpool Lighthouse Gospel Choir and there will be workshops happening in the school this coming year and opportunities to sing in a larger group at Festivals like African Oye and other events at the Liverpool Lighthouse.

Reward trip: this will involve students going to the Liverpool Philharmonic orchestra to watch a live orchestra performing this was successful last year and we will be taking more pupils to see the orchestra in March 26.



Plans to do regular evening orchestra visits – with the free tickets for schools offer in the summer of 26 at the Philharmonic. School links with the Liverpool Schools program and opportunities.

Local university – Shows / concerts and productions – Allow students to see what's on offer at Higher Education in the city while experiencing live music in a wide range of styles.

Trust Singing Workshops – Singing sessions involving 3 schools working together for a performance – We had one afternoon doing this last academic year and is something that worked really well and will be organising another event this year to allow students from different schools to work together in a musical performance.

External visitors: Develop links so that students will experience live performances from external sources throughout the year and have the opportunity to watch live performances in and out of the school environment and speak to professional musicians.

Collaboration concert, summer 2026: students will work towards a performance and travel to Bradford to participate in an academy trust showcase celebrating talent across the trust -23 pupils attended this in the summer of 25 we are hoping to increase numbers as we continue to develop.

Dixons cup events – Last year 12 pupils entered the Dixons cup cross Trust competition – this year we will be hoping for more entries from the school.

Brass day: showcase working with the Valley Brass Band pupils will attend a brass day with a showcase performance. This was attended by 13 pupils in the summer of 25 with an evening performance at the 'World of Glass' St. Helens.

Liverpool Schools Youth Orchestra – 3 pupils attended a full day workshop and evening concert in the Summer. I would like to increase numbers next year to allow more pupils to opportunity to play with other pupils in a larger orchestra.

Music in the community – perform for the pensioners Christmas Party – Look at going out into the community to sing carols in some of the local nursing homes.

In the future

This is a department in development, Lots of work has begun in 2024-25 to offer quality education and opportunities for the students many students have taken advantage of the music provision and there is a 'buzz' around the music department.

The drive in the staff / school for growth is strong and we are determined to improve the facilities and provisions for students over the coming years.

Development of music room space and addition of music technology is the biggest barrier in moving forward. Discussions around the music space / department to find workable solutions – Options of additional rooms to house computers to run music technology, this will be required for KS4 as the department grows. KS3 pupils will need skills in Music Technology to achieve at KS4 as the course requires composition and production skills as well as performance.

Options of having an extra room for music technology equipment or re=designing the current space to make it more suitable to run a KS4 course or relocating the department.

Future plans (5 year) The school strongly supports the Performing Arts and recognises the importance and need for investment in this area to provide the best opportunities for students. The school is very keen to improve facilities and keen to develop a centre of excellence for music in the city.

Addition of music technology to the department – students need to have hands on and gain experience in creating music through the use of music technology – Mrs. Unsworth has been block booking the computer suite to allow all classes to experience and start to develop skills in Music Technology.

Increase curriculum time for KS3 music to one hour per week for all of KS3. This has increased for year 7 / 8 in the academic year 25-26. Year 9 time needs to be increased to an hour a week.

Investment in sound equipment for the hall (performance space) to allow pupils who have worked hard towards a performance to have the best equipment to enhance their performances and allows an audience to have the best experience.

BTEC music tech award: level two course on offer for September 26 – Mrs. Unsworth experienced in running the course and will keep up to date with the developments and specification.

More robust monitoring of pupil participation and progress in extracurricular activities and peripatetic lessons. Ensuring instruments are taken home and regular practice is done.

Increase the peripatetic provision across the school and encourage more student involvement with the Hub provisions. Hiring of an external piano teacher / peripatetic for Autumn 25.

More opportunities for performance / showcase throughout the year – Small after school recitals, sports events. Enriching performance and listening to develop their understanding and appreciation of music.



Primary school links and showcase events – liaise with the local primary school to discuss the curriculum provisions and provide live music and performances. Support the primary feeder schools and develop a relationship in the delivery of music at KS2 and transition.

Cross curricular opportunities with Drama. Musical Theatre showcase – This will develop into full productions in the future.

Look at theatre trips in local theatres – provide opportunities to appreciate live music.

British Council – International funds – Look for opportunities and funding to enrich lives and create cultural links through projects and creativity through music. Celebrate school culture with an International Day – showcasing music from around the world and allowing students to have ownership and lead ensembles and performances sharing and developing skills with others and staff in a vibrant and inclusive culture.

Links with local community groups – Liverpool Lighthouse / Gospel Choir. Orchestra and Bands in the area to provide more opportunities for our students to experience and gain experience in the performing arts industry.

By implementing these improvements in the department's growth, we aim to provide a robust and dynamic music education that supports the development of our students' musical abilities, develops cultural capital and fosters a lifelong love of music.

Further information

Please find below some useful links which you may find helpful when considering your child's musical experiences inside and outside the academy:

[National Plan for Music Education](#)

[Resonate Music Hub](#)

[Model Music Curriculum](#)

[National Curriculum for Music](#)

[Liverpool Philharmonic](#)

