

Music development plan summary: Spalding Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	10 th March 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Lillianna Armstrong
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jack Brindley
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

By the end of Key Stage 3, students should play confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using their voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy and expression. They will have developed a solid understanding of theory, improvisation and composition and have the tools to develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres and traditions. Learners will have developed skills that allow them to listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians, developing a deepening understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen. As well as developing themselves as musicians, students will also hone their transferable skills, such team work, leadership, communication, dependability, adaptability and resilience.

- *All students in Key Stage 3 study music for one hour a week in Years 7, 8 and two hours a week in 9. Music is also available as an option at Key Stages 4, where BTEC Music students have 3 lessons a week.*
- *Our Key Stage 3 schemes of learning are guided by the Model Music Curriculum and the National Plan for Music.*
- *All lessons and resources are adapted for all abilities and are accessed by SEND students.*
- *Key Stage 3 music lessons provide opportunities to learn about music practically, with lessons incorporating the use of music technology, singing, and learning to play a range of musical instruments such as the keyboard, ukuleles and a variety of percussion instruments. Students learn to perform both as a soloist and in an ensemble.*
- *Students are provided with opportunities for further study through the option of BTEC Music. Edexcel is the exam board.*
- *Many of our students from all key stages undertake graded exams in their chosen instruments, supported by their peripatetic teachers employed by the school, as well as private tutors and/or as part of Lincolnshire Music Service.*

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.

Spalding Academy offers a vibrant and inclusive co-curricular music programme that supports musical growth across all year groups. Students in both Key Stage 3 and 4 are encouraged to participate in the school choir, which provides a welcoming environment for vocal development and ensemble singing. Instrumentalists also benefit from regular access to practice rooms, allowing KS3 and KS4 bands to rehearse and collaborate independently.

A popular Ukulele Band gives students the opportunity to build on their classroom learning in a fun and engaging group setting. The department also supports student creativity and music technology skills through the Soundtrap Club, where pupils can explore digital composition and production.

In preparation for major school events, students can take part in Production Vocal Rehearsals and join the Pit Band, offering valuable experience in musical theatre performance. The annual House Music Competition further motivates students to engage in friendly competition, showcasing their talents within the school community.

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.

Students at Spalding Academy benefit from a diverse range of musical experiences that encourage performance, creativity, and personal growth. The school regularly stages key events such as the Christmas Concert, End of Term Show, and the School Production, all of which are held in-house and feature both soloists and ensembles across year groups.

Beyond the school environment, students take part in external performances such as the Spalding Christmas Lights Switch-On, giving them the chance to perform for the wider community. The school has also been involved in the Music For Youth programme, providing pupils with a prestigious platform to perform and receive feedback from professional musicians.

The EVOLVE Project, previously held at the South Holland Centre and now run in-house, offers a further opportunity for creative expression and collaboration. Additionally, pupils perform at Open Evenings and House Celebration Evenings, fostering a strong culture of musical celebration throughout the academic year.

The school is committed to ensuring that music education is inclusive and accessible to all students. Lessons are carefully planned to support a wide range of musical abilities, with adapted resources and differentiated teaching to support students with SEND. Opportunities to participate in ensembles, clubs and performances are open to all pupils, regardless of prior experience. The department also works to reduce barriers to participation by promoting access to instruments, rehearsal spaces and musical activities so that all students can engage in music-making and develop their confidence and creativity.

In the future

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

Looking ahead, Spalding Academy is committed to continuing the expansion of its music provision and performance programme. The department will continue to strengthen the cultural role of music within the school by increasing performance

opportunities, developing student-led ensembles and expanding participation in musical events and competitions.

The school aims to strengthen links with external venues and music initiatives, ensuring that students gain more real-world experience and exposure to the broader music industry. There are also ambitions to grow participation in competitive and cross-trust events, such as Music For Youth and the Trust-wide Christmas Concert, giving pupils even more chances to shine.

In addition, the department will explore opportunities for organising more trips to professional concerts, workshops, and music events, helping to broaden students' musical horizons and inspire their creative development.

In parallel, the department will continue to support musical growth through access to practice spaces, rehearsal time, and inclusive clubs that cater to a wide range of musical interests, from performance to music technology.