Music development plan summary: Nova Hreod Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Eleonore Shannon
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	John Law
Name of local music hub	Swindon Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

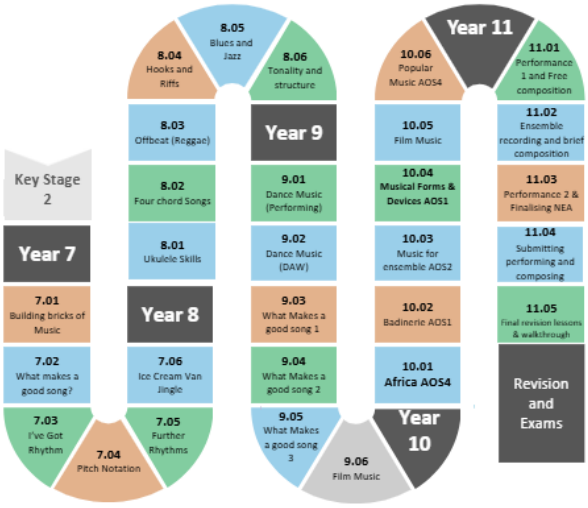
This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Curriculum Music

A link to our curriculum overview for Music can be found here: Music Curriculum Overview.pptx

The images below provide a summary of the areas covered throughout Key Stage 3 and 4.

Curriculum Five Year Journey - *Music*



Curriculum Themes Overview - *Music*

- **Performing:** play and perform confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using their voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy and expression
- **Composing:** improvise and compose; and extend and develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres and traditions
- **Listening and Appraising:** listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians

Students should also be able to do the following which cross-over the above three themes:

- identify and use the interrelated dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication (MAD T SHIRT), including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices
- develop a deepening understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen, and its history
- use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions

Curriculum Five Year Journey - *Music*

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 7	**The building bricks of Music.**	**Singing Competition**	**I've Got Rhythm**	**Pitch notation**	**Further Rhythms**	**Ice Cream Van Jingle Project**
	Learning 'Lean on Me' by ear through singing and playing the keyboard and identifying the main elements of music. The Woodwind Family	Whole class song project: How to improve a performance by manipulating different elements: melody, articulation, dynamics, structure, harmony, texture and tempo. The Brass Family	Basic rhythmic notation Creating and performing a polyrhythmic piece as a group. The String Family	Leaning 'Oh When the Saints' on the Keyboard using pitch notation. The Percussion Family	Learning about triplets, dotted rhythms, off beat through a Samba project. Time signatures and conducting. Accents and syncopation. Using body percussion to create a canonic piece	Compose an ice cream van jingle using Ternary Form and balanced phrases (antecedent and consequent.) and notating ideas (pitch and rhythm). BiE prep: Antecedent and consequent.
Year 8	**Ukulele Skills**	**Four chord songs**	**Off-beat (Reggae)**	**Hooks and Riffs**	**Blues and Improvisation**	**Tonality and Structure**
	Learn to perform 4 chords and perform them in different songs.	Creating an arrangement of a Four chord song using the ukulele and keyboard.	Learning about Reggae and how off-beat is typical of the style. Perform off-beat chords and develop ensemble skills	Learning the different between the two. Sweet Dreams performance, Word Up, Bolero and Habanera.	Blues history. Spirituals, Ragtime, the Blues, the 12 bar blues, Jazz Music	BiE Prep (Blues chords and improvising in an ensemble) Major and Minor, chromatic and pentatonic
Year 9	**Dance Music (Performing)**	**Dance Music (DAW)**	**What Makes A Good Song 1**	**What Makes A Good Song 2**	**What Makes A Good Song 3**	**Film Music**
	Performing an arrangement of 'One Kiss' EDM piece	Composing an EDM piece using Soundtrap	Structure, Harmony and Texture	Band work: Practising a cover song	EDM, Hooks, Intervals, Lyrics and Rhythm (Rap)	BiE Prep (Smoke on the water assessment). Mickey Mousing, Leitmotifs and Heroic themes
Year 10	**Africa** **AOS4**	**Badinerie AOS1**	**Music for ensemble AOS2**	**Musical Forms and Devices AOS1**	**Film Music AOS3**	**Popular Music AOS4**
	Ensemble Performing 'Africa' set work 1. Intro to composition. Recap of musical elements through listening and studying Africa.	Ensemble performing 'Badinerie'. Composition: Pop song. Listening and studying Badinerie through the elements.	Ensemble performance 'Clocks'. Composition: Waltz Listening and studying Musical Theatre, Blues and Jazz through the elements.	Composition: Baroque/EDM Fusion. Listening and studying Baroque and Classical through the elements.	Ensemble performance 'Easy on Me/similar'. Composition: Viking Brief Listening and studying Film Music through the elements.	Ensemble performance practice for Culture day/Y11. Composition: Free choice – return to a composition and improve it. Listening and studying Pop Music and Fusion through the elements.
Year 11	**Performance 1 and Free Composition**	**Assessment preparation: PPE1, ensemble recording and brief composition**	**Performance 2, finalising NEA.**	**Assessment: PPE2. Performing and composing submitted**	**Final Revision**	
	Complete Free composition, record solo performance and prepare for mocks through revision of AOS1, 2,3 and 4.	PPE1 assessments, brief composition and ensemble performance mock recordings UL NEA recording window 1	Ensemble recording day, brief compositions finalised. DROP DOWN DAY UL NEA recording window 2	PPE2 assessments, finalising compositions, logs and performance NEA.	Exit timetable: Revision, past paper walk-throughs	

Nova Hreod Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Excellence - Hard Work - Kindness

At Nova Hreod Academy, students in KS3 have one hour lessons a week and students in KS4, three one hour lessons a week.

Teachers are expected to provide seating plans for all their classes, giving details on how they will support students with disabilities and SEND and what reasonable adjustments are made to ensure all students make good progress. All lessons across the school follow the 'Teach, Check, Practice' model. Through this, we are able to check understanding through use of mini whiteboard 'show me' tasks, whole class choral response and 'I say, you say'. Tasks are carefully modelled from the Teacher and scaffolded to allow all students access to the curriculum. Further support for SEND students is provided by additional guidance on mini-whiteboards to help scaffold the task further. At KS4, students have access to a knowledge organiser in their folders which supports them with independent tasks.

Students with physical disabilities such as a hearing impairment are sat strategically to allow them to hear the teacher and the Music from speakers. Those who can be overwhelmed by louder sounds have the option to wear headphones or ear defenders if necessary.

Our curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum. For example, in Year 7, students are introduced to basic notation such as semibreve, crotchet, quavers. We are working on introducing the bass clef in this year group.

Opportunities for playing instruments and singing in lesson time:

Year group	Opportunities for all	Additional opportunities (these instruments are not available for all students due to space and resource availability)
Year 7		One Year 7 class is taking part in the Yamaha band method over the **whole year.** Students in this class are playing flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone and bariton.*
Half term 1	Keyboard and Singing	
Half term 2	Singing	
Half term 3	Singing, hand-held percussion	
Half term 4	Singing, keyboard	
Half term 5	Singing, hand-held percussion	
Half term 6	Singing, keyboard	
Year 8		
Half term 1	Singing, Ukulele	
Half term 2	Singing, Ukulele	
Half term 3	Singing, keyboard	
Half term 4	Singing, keyboard	
Half term 5	Singing, keyboard	
Half term 6	Singing, keyboard	
Year 9		
Half term 1	Singing, keyboard	

Half term 2	Singing, Soundtrap Music software (DAW)	
Half term 3	Singing, keyboard	Bass Guitar, guitar and drums
Half term 4	Singing, keyboard	Bass Guitar, guitar and drums
Half term 5	Singing, keyboard	Bass Guitar, guitar and drums
Half term 6	Singing, keyboard	
Year 10 and 11	Students use their voice and sing in listening and appraising lessons to help further deepen key concepts. Instruments are used in whole band class performances (e.g. when learning how to play the set works). Students work individually or as a group on an instrument or voice for their performance coursework.	

From September 2026, Swindon Music Service have joined forces with Yamaha Band. As one of the Swindon Secondary schools taking part in the scheme, we have one Year 7 class who are spending the whole year using brass and woodwind instruments in all of their lessons. They are complete beginners and learning how to play as an ensemble. These students will take part in concerts and performances throughout the year.

KS4: Students in Years 10 and 11 follow the Eduqas GCSE Music specification. At the end of the course, students submit two performances, two compositions and

complete an appraising exam. The curriculum pathway outlined at the start of this section prepares students for this qualification.

Component 1: Performing
Total duration of performances: 4-6 minutes
Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated
30% of qualification

A **minimum of two** pieces, **one** of which must be an **ensemble** performance of **at least one minute** duration. The other piece(s) may be **either** solo **and/or** ensemble.
One of the pieces performed must link to an area of study of the learner's choice.

Component 2: Composing
Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes
Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated
30% of qualification

Two compositions, **one** of which must be in response to a **brief set by WJEC.** Learners will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The briefs will be released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken.
The **second** composition is a free composition for which learners set their **own brief**.

Component 3: Appraising
Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes (approximately)
40% of qualification

This component is assessed via a listening examination.

Eight questions in total, **two** on each of the four areas of study.

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
Area of study 3: Film Music
Area of study 4: Popular Music

Two of the eight questions are based on extracts set by WJEC.

Part B: 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.

Extra-curricular Music

Instrumental Tuition:

We have a Gold membership with Swindon Music Service. This provides:

- **Year 7 Clarinet progression group**; weekly lessons on the clarinet for 10x Year 7 students. A peripatetic tutor from the music service teaches a group of Year 7 students the clarinet for one hour a week throughout the academic year. The instruments are loaned for free to the students which means families can benefit from free tuition and loan for the year. The progression group performs in concerts as part of the clarinet choir. Some students pursue the instrument beyond Year 7.
- **Yamaha Band:** This takes place in a Year 7 curriculum class but students can use their instrument during lunch time if they have booked a practice room. The Yamaha band (brass, wind and percussion instruments) was introduced in September 2026 and provided by Swindon Music Service. The Yamaha band will have the opportunity to play in our concerts this year.

Swindon Music Service also currently provides one to one or paired tuition on the following instruments:

Clarinet

Guitar (Acoustic and Electric)

Piano

Instrumental loans and Saturday clubs

Swindon Music Service provide instrumental loans for students and have a Saturday Music school which students can attend at a reduced rate if they have lessons on an instrument. The Saturday music school provides additional ensembles, theory lessons and concerts for students to take part in.

Bursaries

Swindon Music Service also has a bursary system for pupil premium students. Last year, we successfully provided instrumental and singing lessons for three pupil premium students in Year 10 studying Music GCSE. Students contributed £3 per lesson, the school used some of the pupil premium budget and the rest of the price per lesson was subsidised by Swindon Music Service.

Extra-curricular clubs

The Music Department provides clubs as part of the school's Supernova programme. Currently these are:

Keyboard Club on Tuesdays: Open to all students from Years 7-10. Students have the opportunity to learn how to play famous pieces, tunes and riffs. Keyboard club performs in school concerts and many students audition to perform solos or sing and play the keyboard/piano having had experience playing in keyboard club.

Nova Singers on Wednesdays: Open to all students from Years 7-10. This is the school choir which performs in all school concerts. Year 11 students join the choir at lunchtime rehearsals as we approach a performance.

Band Club on Thursdays: Open to all students from Years 7-10. Students can form a band and rehearse together. There is tuition available on the acoustic guitar, bass guitar, electric guitar, piano, keyboard and drum kit from our teaching staff as well as support with microphone technique.

Practice room bookings every lunchtime: Students have the opportunity to book a practice room at lunchtime to rehearse as a band or develop a skill on an instrument or voice. We have five practice rooms, two of which include a drum kit. Students also have the opportunity to practise and rehearse in classrooms as we approach concert season.

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.

Musical Events

At Nova Hreod Academy, we aim to give students a range of performing opportunities to allow them to develop their technical skills on an instrument or voice and to grow in confidence as a performer.

Date	Event name	What takes place?	Ticket, subsidy and partnership information
Wednesday 7th October '26	Young Musician of the Year competition.	This is an annual competition where students audition in September. There is a first, second and third prize for	A ticketed event: £1 for students and

		solo and ensemble entries. Open to all year groups.	adults over 11. Under 11s are free. Local Musicians from the Music Service or teachers in other Swindon schools are invited to judge at the competition.
Wednesday 7th October '26	Music Lecture from Dr Matt Lawson, Oxford Brookes University	An opportunity for Years 10 and 11 Music students to hear a lecture about Music in Film and the Media from a senior lecturer at Oxford Brookes University.	A one-off free talk provided by Oxford Brookes University to promote post-16 and career opportunities as well as widening their understanding of music and the screen.
Thursday 12th November '26	Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra 'Set Works Live' Trip at the Platform in Swindon.	This is a trip organised by the Swindon Music Service. Students listen to the Education department of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra deliver a workshop on the set works for each exam board, as well as providing hints and tips for success in the GCSE Music performing and composing components.	This is subsidised by Swindon Music Service and provided through the 'Gold membership' the school subscribes to every year. Therefore, there is no cost to the students.
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Concert	An opportunity for the Clarinet group, Nova Singers, Band club students and soloists, duets and smaller ensembles to perform a range of pieces in various styles. This year we will also have our Yamaha Band performing for the first time, our newly formed Year 7 wind and brass band. There is a large scale 'Big Sing' performance at the end of the concert where all the performers take part; this can include some audience participation. In this concert, we also give students the opportunity to compere. These are usually our Music prefects.	A ticketed event: £1 for students and adults over 11. Under 11s are free.
Monday 14th December	Year 7 Singing Competition	In half term 2, Year 7 work on a singing unit. This culminates in a singing competition where each Year 7 class perform a song which includes	A non-ticketed event where students perform to each other.

		two/three parts or a round. In class, students will have learnt about what makes a good song where the focus is on the melody, articulation, dynamics, texture, use of vocal harmonies, as well understanding the use of structure.	
Half Terms 3, 4 and 5	Spring Concert OR Live Lounge performance events	At this point of the year, there is either a large-scale Spring concert similar in style to the Christmas concert or a lunchtime/after school performance	Spring concert: £1 for students and adults over 11. Under 11s are free. Live Lounge events: During lunchtimes/straight after school and non-ticketed as students perform to each other.
6th and 7th July	School Show: Showcase	A showcase of Grimm Tales. A collaboration between the Drama and Music department. Students audition for a part. This is open to students in Years 7-10.	Ticket prices TBC.
End of July	Culture Day performances	Students will perform to each other during lunchtime in the ampitheatre at the school's annual culture day.	A non-ticketed event and students perform to each other.

In the future

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

Future Plans

- **January 2027: Provide peripatetic tuition on voice, drum kit and flute.**

  There is a demand for lessons however, the Music Service does not have capacity to provide this at the moment. We will look to employ another provider (e.g. Swindon Music Co-operative) to provide lessons due to a growing demand.

- **January 2027: Music prefects to help run a club at lunchtime or after school.**

Many students in Y10 have strong performance skills and can help run clubs, encourage and build up a culture of groups and ensemble rehearsals.

- **September 2027 onwards: More students playing a brass or wind instrument.**

  Students who are currently learning how to play an instrument in Yamaha band will choose to continue learning the instrument either as a pair or one to one with peripatetic staff.

- **September 2027: Setting up a concert band for all students who play a wind, brass, string or percussion instrument.**

  The aim is that by September 2030, the concert band perform at all school concerts and any school event where there are visitors (open evenings, option evenings etc.) the aim being that it will become one of the main flagships of the department.

- **September 2027:** Nova Singers, the school choir will have increased in numbers due to inviting Year 7 to perform in the 2026 Christmas concert having spent half terms 1 and 2 focusing on singing. It will start performing alongside the concert band at concerts and events.

Further information (optional)