

Furrowfield School

School Music Advancement Plan



2026-2027

Vision Statement

At Furrowfield School, we believe that music has the power to transform lives. Music is a vital part of our curriculum, therapeutic provision and wider personal development offer. As a specialist secondary school for students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, we recognise that music supports emotional regulation, creativity, communication, confidence and wellbeing whilst also providing meaningful opportunities for achievement and preparation for adulthood. Music is a key element of our commitment to improving life chances and forms an important part of the school's wider vision of Together We Succeed and Belong Together. Music provision supports students to become imaginative, inquisitive, resilient, reflective and collaborative learners through the Furrowfield Way.

This Music Development Plan has been written in line with:

- The National Plan for Music Education
- DfE Music Development Plan Guidance
- National Curriculum for Music
- SEND Code of Practice
- Equality Act 2010
- Ofsted Inspection Framework
- Ofsted Subject Report: Music
- Furrowfield School Advancement Priorities

1. Music at Furrowfield School

Intent

Our music curriculum is ambitious, inclusive and designed specifically to meet the needs of students with SEMH needs. Music forms part of both our formal and informal curriculum and contributes significantly to:

- Academic development
- Emotional wellbeing
- Personal development
- Communication skills
- Social interaction
- Therapeutic support
- Preparation for adulthood
- Future employment opportunities

Music is viewed as an entitlement for every student regardless of starting point, prior attainment or additional need. Students are encouraged to engage, perform, create, listen, evaluate and express themselves through a range of musical experiences. Music supports students to develop confidence and experience success in a way that is meaningful to them.

Implementation

Music is delivered through:

- Curriculum lessons
- Therapeutic interventions
- Enrichment opportunities
- Clubs and Societies
- Health and Wellbeing Activities
- Whole-school events including Shine Award assemblies and performances

- Celebrations and performances
- Cross-curricular projects

Students access practical musical experiences through the specialist Avril Music Room and a range of high-quality musical resources.

Impact

Through music, students:

- Develop creativity and self-expression
- Improve confidence and self-esteem
- Strengthen social communication skills
- Support emotional regulation
- Increase engagement in learning
- Develop resilience and perseverance
- Achieve recognised accreditation
- Prepare for future education and employment pathways

2. Current Context

Music provision currently includes access to:

- Bass guitars
- Acoustic guitars
- Keyboards and piano
- Electric drum kits
- Ukuleles
- Xylophones
- Singing bowls
- Ocean drums
- Percussion instruments

Students access music through curriculum lessons, enrichment activities, clubs and therapeutic interventions. Music is delivered within the specialist Avril Music Room and through TASC therapeutic provision.

3. Curriculum Provision

Key Stage 3

Students experience a broad and ambitious music curriculum with a specially developed pedagogy to ensure this is accessible which develops

Performing

Students learn to:

- Use voices and instruments confidently
- Play individually and collaboratively
- Develop performance skills
- Improve technique and accuracy

Composing

Students:

- Create original compositions
- Explore creativity
- Experiment with rhythm and melody
- Develop confidence in musical decision making

Listening and Appraising

Students:

- Listen to a wide variety of music
- Evaluate performances
- Understand musical elements
- Develop cultural awareness

Personal Development Through Music

Lessons are designed to develop:

- Collaboration
- Reflection
- Resilience
- Imagination
- Inquisitiveness
- Emotional literacy

These directly mirror the Furrowfield Way.

Key Stage 4

Students continue to access music through differentiated pathways.

These include:

- Practical music experiences through Clubs and Societies and Health and Wellbeing Activities
- Creative music projects during break times
- Music technology activities
- Accredited programmes
- Therapeutic music interventions

Students are supported to achieve meaningful qualifications which contribute positively to preparation for adulthood outcomes. The prospectus confirms that students are able to access recognised accredited music-related qualification pathways.

4. Ambition for All Learners

Music at Furrowfield School is fully inclusive. We recognise that many students arrive with previous negative experiences of education and may initially lack confidence in participating in creative activities.

Adaptive teaching approaches include:

- Small group work
- Individual instruction
- Visual supports

- Sensory adaptations
- Scaffolded tasks
- Therapeutic approaches
- Practical learning opportunities
- Our own specially developed teaching pedagogy

The curriculum is designed so all students can experience success regardless of prior attainment. This reflects Ofsted's expectation that leaders maintain ambition for all learners, including students with SEND.

5. Therapeutic Music Provision

A distinctive feature of music at Furrowfield School is its integration into the Therapeutic Assessment and Support Centre (TASC).

Music supports:

- Emotional regulation
- Anxiety reduction
- Communication development
- Relationship building
- Confidence
- Self-expression

For many students, music provides an alternative method of communication where verbal communication may be challenging.

Music-based intervention programmes support students to:

- Process emotions
- Develop self-awareness
- Build resilience
- Improve engagement in learning

These interventions form part of the school's wider therapeutic offer

6. Instrumental and Vocal Development

2026–2027 Priorities

The school will further develop opportunities for students to:

- Learn instruments
- Perform collaboratively
- Develop vocal skills
- Compose original work
- Participate in performances

Students will have increasing opportunities to explore:

- Guitar
- Ukulele
- Keyboard
- Drums

- Percussion
- Singing

Provision will remain responsive to student interests and needs.

7. Co-Curricular Music

Music forms part of Furrowfield's wider enrichment offer through:

- Music Club
- Clubs and Societies Programme
- Health and Wellbeing Activities
- Celebration Events
- Assembly Contributions
- School Productions
- Community Events

Participation in enrichment supports confidence, belonging and positive engagement.

8. Performance Opportunities

During 2026–2027 students will participate in:

Internal Performances

- Assemblies
- Celebration events
- Awards ceremonies including the Shine Awards
- Curriculum showcase events

Community Engagement

- Local performances where appropriate
- Collaborative projects
- Cultural celebration events

Recording Opportunities

Students will be given opportunities to:

- Record performances
- Reflect on performance quality
- Build portfolios of achievement

These experiences contribute to students' cultural capital and preparation for adulthood.

9. Music Technology Development

A key development objective for 2026–2027 will be exploring opportunities to increase access to music technology.

Potential developments include:

- Composition software
- Digital recording
- Sound editing
- Creative media links
- Performance recording

These developments will support creativity, engagement and vocational pathways.

10. Careers and Preparation for Adulthood

Music contributes directly to Preparation for Adulthood outcomes.

Students develop transferable skills including:

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Resilience
- Creativity
- Independence
- Planning
- Problem solving
- Confidence

Music also provides opportunities to explore careers linked to:

- Performance
- Creative industries
- Sound production
- Media
- Education
- Community arts

Music accreditation supports progression to future education, employment and training opportunities.

11. Equality, Inclusion and SEND

The school is committed to ensuring equal access to music for every student.

We will:

- Remove barriers to participation
- Adapt provision to individual needs
- Ensure curriculum accessibility
- Promote inclusion
- Celebrate diversity
- Ensure all students can achieve success

Music provision reflects the values of the Equality Act 2010 and SEND Code of Practice.

12. Leadership and Quality Assurance

Music provision will be monitored through:

Curriculum Monitoring

- Learning walks
- Student voice
- Work sampling
- Student involvement in school life - assemblies etc

Outcomes Monitoring

- Student engagement
- Accreditation achievements
- Personal development outcomes
- Attendance at activities

Stakeholder Feedback

- Student surveys
- Parent feedback
- Staff feedback

Leaders will evaluate whether students know more, remember more and can do more over time while also considering wider personal development outcomes.

13. Music Development Priorities 2026–2027

Priority	Success Criteria
Further develop practical music opportunities	Increased student participation in music activities
Expand performance opportunities	All students access at least one performance opportunity annually
Develop music accreditation pathways	Increased numbers achieving recognised accreditation
Strengthen therapeutic music provision	Evidence of improved emotional regulation and engagement
Increase student voice in music planning	Music curriculum reflects student interests and aspirations
Explore music technology opportunities	Wider range of creative outcomes available
Strengthen links with preparation for adulthood	Music contributes to employability and future pathways

Conclusion

Music is an integral part of life at Furrowfield School. Through an ambitious, inclusive and therapeutic approach, music helps students develop confidence, creativity, resilience and aspiration. It supports emotional wellbeing, academic engagement and preparation for adulthood while reflecting the values of the Furrowfield Way and our vision of Together We Succeed. Through this Music Advancement Plan, Furrowfield School commits to ensuring that every student has meaningful opportunities to learn, create, perform and succeed through music.