

Music development plan summary: *Beckfoot Thornton*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Holly Mallinson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Portia Taylor
Name of local music hub	Bradford Music and Arts 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.

Music is an integral part of the Beckfoot Thornton curriculum studied by all KS3 students including our alternative and SEND provisions for one hour a week. We also offer GCSE Music for KS4 students following the Eduqas syllabus. Our intent for music is to ignite a creative spark in each child and to develop musicianship through performance, composition, listening and appraising.

Each topic at KS3 has a focus of performance or composition with listening and appraisal skills linked throughout. Students experience a wide range of genres from different countries and eras in musical history. We develop performance skills on keyboard, guitar, ukulele, vocals and percussion in a range of solo, duet and (our favourite) whole class ensemble projects. Composition projects begin with notation theory and short keyboard melodies in year 7 leading up to MIDI sequencing projects

in year 8 and 9 using online DAW Soundtrap. Throughout each practical project we listen to a range of songs within the topic's genre and learn how to describe and analyse the use of musical elements. Students are assessed through practical performance progress as well as theory and listening assessments.

Year 7

- Music Notation Theory and Composition
- Musical Elements and Ensemble Performance
- Programme Music Composition
- Blues Music Performance (Solo/Duets)
- 90's Music Performance (Whole Class Ensemble)

Year 8

- Queen Performance (Solo/Duet/Whole Class Ensemble)
- Reggae Music Performance (Whole Class Ensemble)
- Game Music Composition (PC Project)

Year 9

- The Beatles Performance (Whole Class Ensemble)
- Classical Music Remix (PC Project)
- Festival Planning Project (Whole Class Ensemble/Careers Project)

At KS4 we study Eduqas GCSE Music with 3 hours of lessons a week as well as instrumental lessons provided by our peripatetic teachers. The lessons are split equally between listening/theory, composition and performance. In year 10, students build upon their KS3 knowledge and continue to develop their listening and appraisal skills working up to past paper questions. Small composition tasks earlier in the year help to build confidence with different music software and prepare students for their final coursework. Mock performances give students the opportunity to perform regularly for teacher and peer feedback in lessons. All students are encouraged to practise regularly at home as well as attending additional instrumental lessons with specialist teachers.

Students in all year groups are encouraged to enter instrumental and vocal exams, as their instrumental teacher recommends. Past students have entered exams for ABRSM, Trinity and RockSchool Grades.

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.

Instrumental lessons on guitar, drum kit, vocals and brass are available in school and are offered to all students across all year groups. Groups are kept as small as possible and are taught by skilled professional musicians. Costs are kept to a minimum for families and subsidised by school funding where possible.

We also run a band night where students from all year groups and all abilities are welcome. The songs we learn are mostly those chosen by the students and the ensemble changes every year depending on who we have attending. We are normally a pop/rock ensemble with a large group of vocalists. In the past we have included saxophone, tuba and violin as well as guitar, bass, keys and drums. We are diverse and versatile ever changing to suit our students' needs and ambitions!

In our drama club students also have the opportunity to work towards school shows and this often involves singing as well as work on vocal projection and techniques. This extra-curricular club is also available to all students from all year groups including our SEND and alternative provisions.

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.

Our students have the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting projects and performances across the year including:

- Open evening/transition performances
- Summer Production (previous years including Matilda and Grease)
- Christmas Showcase Concert
- Trust Events
- Bradford Schools Proms

Students perform at these events in our school ensembles as well as in smaller bands that they have formed independently. Performances also include several soloists on a variety of instruments. School concerts are charged at a minimal fee to ensure all parents and students can attend. We also take advantage of performance opportunities outside of school such as collaborations with other Trust schools and the Bradford Music Service.

In the future

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

- Develop transition of year 6 to year 7. Further work with local primary feeder schools to help develop a bridging curriculum. Working closely with lead practitioners in each school to have regular meetings and offer staff CPD for non-specialists teaching music
- Performance opportunities with local primary schools to get more year 6/7 students excited about music at Beckfoot Thornton before they start
- Develop more in-school performance opportunities to allow students to see their peers performing and be inspired to get involved in extra-curricular music
- Further refinement of KS3 and KS4 curriculum ensuring it best prepares students to study Eduqas GCSE specification
- To continue working to build provision and uptake of instrumental lessons