

Music Development **Plan Summary** 2025-6

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Music development plan summary: Neston High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	Academic year 2025-6
Date this summary was published	1/09/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	1/07/2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss N Mc Aleer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mrs F Mannix
Name of local music hub	Edsential
Name of other music education organisation	Music for Life

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.

Our Vision at Neston High

Music at Neston promotes a vibrant and inclusive musical community that nurtures creativity, fosters academic excellence, and instils a lifelong appreciation for the arts. We are dedicated to providing a comprehensive and diverse curriculum that spans various musical genres, cultures, and historical periods ensuring that every student has the opportunity to explore and develop their unique talents. Through high-quality instruction, facilities, and numerous performance opportunities throughout each year, we aim to empower students to achieve their full potential as musicians and individuals.

Our commitment to excellence in music education is rooted in the belief that music is a vital component of a well-rounded education, enhancing cognitive abilities, emotional and mental well-being, as well as cultural awareness.

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.

The Curriculum

The music curriculum at Neston High School offers a high-quality education for all students. This will guide pupils on an enriching journey, providing a comprehensive and engaging musical experience that prepares them for further study.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Our KS3 music curriculum is informed by the [National Curriculum](#) and the [Model Music Curriculum \(2021\)](#), ensuring clear progression in musical knowledge and skills from one year to the next. It encompasses a wide range of musical genres and styles, providing a balanced approach that includes Western classical music, contemporary music, and music from various cultures. The curriculum outlines a sequence of learning across singing, listening, composing and performing/instrumental performance. Students currently receive 1 hour of music a week throughout year 7, and a fort- nightly lesson in year 8 and 9.

The framework for KS3 is as follows:

Year 7					
Find your Voice!	I've got rhythm	Keyboards: Performance and Practice	Ukulele skills	Build a band	Samba
Year 8					
I Guess That's Why they Call it 'The Blues'	Rock and Roll	Hooks and riffs (<i>performing</i>)	Hooks and riffs (<i>composing</i>)	Video game music (<i>performing</i>)	Video game music (<i>Composing</i>)
Year 9					
Film Music	Film Music	EDM	Merseybeat	Pop Music	Pop Music and the Music Industry

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Pupils in key stage 4 receive 3 hours of music per week.

Students at KS4 level study the [BTEC Tech award in music practice \(2022\)](#) which comprises of three components which take place within year 10 and 11:

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles (30%)

Component 2: Music Skills Development (30%)

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief (40%)

The Tech Award gives students the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. For example: students could underpin effective ways of working in the music sector, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal.

Students' coursework focusses on music production, performance and composition. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice.

Further information about our KS3/4 curriculum is found [here](#).

Opportunities for students

Students will have the opportunity to join a thriving choir, participate in a dynamic band, and engage in whole-class singing. In our classroom lessons, students will receive hands-on instruction in playing the keyboard, ukulele, and samba instruments, as well as vocal training. These lessons are structured to build foundational skills, encourage musical exploration, and provide a comprehensive understanding of various musical traditions and styles.

By incorporating these diverse musical experiences into our weekly curriculum, we ensure that every student can discover and develop their musical potential. Our aim is to create a supportive environment where students can excel both musically and academically, enriched by a robust and well-rounded music education curriculum.

Supporting our students

As a school, we are dedicated to ensuring that every student, regardless of their background or individual needs, has access to a rich and fulfilling musical education. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where SEND and disadvantaged students can thrive and develop their musical talents.

Accessible resources

Our music department is equipped with a range of accessible resources, including adaptive instruments and technology that cater to diverse learning needs.

Inclusive Ensembles and Performances

Our performances and events are designed to be inclusive, providing opportunities for all students to showcase their talents. We ensure that all students, regardless of their abilities or background, has the chance to perform and be celebrated for their achievements.

Partnerships

Neston receives support from the 'Music for Life' education organisation, which significantly enhances our music curriculum. 'Music for Life' provides our students with expert 1-1 lessons in a variety of instruments, delivered by experienced and dedicated musicians. The individualised attention and specialised training offered by 'Music for Life' enable our students to develop technical proficiency and a deeper understanding of their chosen instruments, which will allow them to pursue their musical interests beyond the classroom.

Edsential music service is our local hub that supports Neston on specialist workshops, careers events, and live performances.

Music qualifications

Graded music exams

Students are encouraged to take Trinity College London music exams which are internationally recognised, and grades 6-8 earn students UCAS points for university entry in the UK, adding value to their educational profile.

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.

Music for Life tuition

Neston High School offers individual or shared music tuition provided by Music for Life, providing a fantastic opportunity to explore and develop musical talents beyond the classroom. This program is available for a wide range of instruments, including but not limited to, piano, guitar, voice, violin, flute, brass and drums.

The dedicated team of professional music tutors are committed to nurturing each student's unique musical abilities. Lessons are designed to cater to all skill levels, from beginners to advanced musicians. Whether your child is just starting their musical journey or looking to refine their skills, our 1-1 tuition provides personalised instruction tailored to meet individual needs and goals.

To make music education more accessible, Neston High School subsidises the cost of these instrument lessons by one-third of the overall price for students studying KS4 Music.

Lessons are arranged on a rota system so that a students' may not miss the same period more than once each half term. Experience has proved that this is not detrimental to the pupils' general progress, which is monitored closely.

Charging policy

Music for Life Tuition Costs:

- **Shared Lessons:** £19.53 (£234.40 per year)
- **20-Minute Individual Lessons:** £34.42 per month (£413 per year)
- **30-Minute Individual Lessons:** £46.58 per month (£559 per year)

For more information enroll in lessons, please visit the website below:

[Book Lessons – Music for Life](#)

Neston Music Department ensembles

We also strongly encourage all students to take part in our free music ensembles. Participating in an ensemble provides a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with peers, enhance musical skills, and enjoy the community of making music together.

The current ensemble timetable framework:

Club	Day	Room	Time	Staff	For whom
Band	Monday	G10	3:15-4:00pm	Miss Mc Aleer Mr Griffith	Instrumental-ists Grade 3+
Choir	Tuesday	G03	Lunch time (12:30-1:00pm)	Miss Mc Aleer	All students
Show Rehearsals	Wednesday	G26	3:10-4:30PM	Miss Mc Aleer Mrs Hickey Mrs Tebay	Show Cast
Samba Band	Thursday	G10	3:15-4:15pm	Mr Warnock (Music for Life)	Drummers/ All Years
Rock Ensemble	Friday	G10	3:15-4:15pm	Mr Blythyn (Music for Life)	Guitarists/ All Year



This is about all the opportunities that we

in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

other musical events and organise, such as singing

The music department are delighted to share the exciting plans we have in store for the upcoming academic year, starting September 2025. Our goal is to provide enriching and diverse musical experiences that will enhance the talents and skills of our students.

January 2026 Show at the Floral Pavilion Theatre

Building on the success of our Legally Blonde production in January 2025, we are excited to announce that Grease is coming in 2026! The show will take place at the prestigious Floral Pavilion Theatre on 26th January.

This marks another exciting step forward in providing our students with larger platforms to showcase their talents and gain valuable performance experience. All auditions begin in September, and upcoming Year 7s are welcome to get involved.

Trips to See the Philharmonic Orchestra

We have planned an exciting trip in March 2026 for our KS3 students to experience live performances by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Christmas concert

Our annual Christmas concert will highlight the festive season, featuring performances from our choir and ensembles and performances from our local primary schools. This event is a wonderful opportunity for students to share the joy of music with the local community and their families.

Voice in a million

Due to the incredible success of our newly formed choir in September, we are thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for our students: a trip to Wembley Stadium in March 2026 to take part in Voice in a Million. This is a fantastic chance for our choir members to perform as part of a massed choir in one of the UK's most iconic venues, celebrating the power of young voices coming together.

Other Performance Opportunities

Throughout the academic year, our students will have numerous opportunities to display their talents at various school events, including Transition Evenings, Open Evenings and Parents Evenings. These performances are integral to our mission of providing a comprehensive musical education and fostering a vibrant school culture.

In the future

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

The music department's vision for the future includes a dynamic array of opportunities designed to elevate the musical talents of our students and provide them with unparalleled experiences. Listed below are some things planned for the future:

Participation in Music Festivals and Competitions

Our ensembles and choir to take part in renowned music festivals and competitions (Wirral Festival of Music, Sing Wirral)

Concert Tours

Plans for concert tours that will take our students to different cities and even countries.

Building KS5

The music department's development strategy focuses on fostering a seamless transition from KS4 to KS5, aiming to build student numbers and prepare them for further study. The department will introduce targeted workshops, masterclasses, and collaboration with professional musicians to inspire and motivate students.

Masterclasses and Workshops

Students have the opportunity to attend masterclasses and workshops led by distinguished musicians.

Attend Professional Performances

Organise trips to see orchestras, operas and musicals performed by professional artists.

Further information

Whether you're curious about the music curriculum we offer, the instruments available, or opportunities for performance and development, the department is here to provide all the information you need. Our experienced and enthusiastic staff are more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding music both within and outside of our school. For any questions or further information, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your child's musical journey is important to us, and we are here to support it every step of the way.

Contact information:

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