Music development plan summary:

Dixons Kings Academy – Bradford

This document is designed to give a summary of the high-quality music provision at this academy in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, considering the key features in the national plan for music education:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2027
Name of the academy music lead	Mr. T. Rossell
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ms. C. Miller
Name of local music hub	Bradford Music & Arts Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dixons Academies Trust - Director of Music, Tamsin Rafnsson

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

- All students at Dixons Kings Academy study music one lesson per week (50-55 minutes) in Years 7 and 8. During these lessons, students will learn to play keyboard, ukulele and classroom percussion instruments (tuned and untuned), and engage in whole-class and ensemble singing.
- There are also opportunities to play drumkit, guitar and bass guitar, and to explore Music Technology via GarageBand for iPad.
- In Years 9, 10 and 11 music is available as an option subject, with two timetabled lessons per week. Students are working towards the Eduqas Music GCSE qualification.
- Our curriculum overview for each year group may be accessed here.
- Our curriculum intent document, explaining the rationale behind our curriculum, may be accessed here.

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.

- Approximately 10% of students take instrumental lessons in school, currently available free of charge on flute, clarinet, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, violin and drumkit.
- We have a small number of woodwind instruments available for students to borrow free of charge when taking lessons in school.
- In addition, seven students currently access instrumental lessons on violin or trombone via the Music hub (funded by the Connect / Furthering Talent scheme)
- We use Trinity Rock and Pop syllabus resources in most of our instrumental teaching, allowing staff and students to track progress easily. Where appropriate, students may be entered for ABRSM or Trinity Rock & Pop examinations through the school.
- Additional opportunities for music-making include the KS3 and KS4 choirs, weekly after-school music club, and additional ensemble rehearsals scheduled according to demand. Musical theatre productions are biennial and are a popular enrichment activity. Music practice facilities are available for students to use at breaks, lunchtime and after school and are well-used.
- Other opportunities for students to engage in music-making outside of school, such as those provided by our local Music hub, the Bradford Music and Arts Service, are advertised in the Department.

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.

- The music department puts on a termly variety concert and / or talent show. There are various ways in which students can get involved in these, both through regular classroom lessons or instrumental lessons, and through involvement in extra-curricular clubs and rehearsals. Students from all year groups are involved in each concert, always voluntarily.
- We also put on a biennial musical theatre production in conjunction with the drama department, for which students in all year groups may audition. Previous productions include Bugsy Malone, Matilda Junior and School of Rock.
- Student are given the opportunity to perform in the Dixons Collaboration concerts (the most recent being in July 2026 at St. George's Hall, Bradford).
- All students are also invited to participate in the Dixons Music Cup competition, which caters for students at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of performance.
- Occasional visits from outside practitioners are arranged, to allow students to experience live music in a variety of styles.
- Involvement in all musical activities and attendance at shows and concerts are provided entirely free of charge.

In the future

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

- Further developing high quality singing:
    - continue to strengthen KS3 curriculum to ensure regular singing.
    - pilot of two choirs this year, for KS3 and KS4 respectively - to perform with combined forces including 2- and 3-part harmony performances
    - utilise newly appointed vocal coach to drive up singing standards for GCSE coursework and in performances
- Maximise student outcomes at KS4:
    - continue to review and revise KS3 curriculum to better support transition to GCSE in KS4.
    - continue to create resources to support Eduqas GCSE Music curriculum.
    - update new Padlet equivalent with relevant resources for the GCSE course.
- Broaden / maximise our instrumental offer:
    - set up a Drumline ensemble enrichment activity
    - embed violin lessons and widen out to include other orchestral instruments
    - make the most of instrumental lesson time through practice logs / open house / additional rehearsal opportunities / home learning resources

Further information

Please find below some useful links which you may find helpful when considering your child's musical experiences inside and outside the academy:

- National Plan for Music Education
- Model Music Curriculum
- National Curriculum for Music
- Bradford Music Hub
- Eduqas GCSE Music
- BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice
- ABRSM
- Trinity Rock & Pop