

Music development plan summary: The Fernwood School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	James Crabtree
Name of local music hub	Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Nottingham Music Tuition

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 at The Fernwood School is taught to all pupils for one hour per week in Year 7 and Year 8 and one hour per week on a rotating half-termly carousel with drama in Year 9. Pupils are taught in tutor groups for these lessons.

Music belongs to everyone. To reflect this, broadly speaking, the curriculum is designed to introduce pupils to musical skills and appreciation from different genres, cultures, and historical periods. It is entirely deliberate that this will encompass a mixture of both familiar and unfamiliar music and will combine traditional practical musical skills and knowledge with modern music technology.

Further detail of the curriculum can be found on the main school website.

<https://www.fernwood.school/page/?title=Music&pid=35>

Beyond KS3, pupils can carry on with music following one (or both) of these pathways, should they choose to:

- OCR GCSE Music (J536)
- AQA Performing Arts

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 is vital to a successful musical education and goes hand-in-hand with the work in the classroom. Each informs and expands the other. Individual and small group tuition is offered on a wide range of instruments, which at the time of writing include:

- Piano
- Violin, viola, cello & double bass
- Flute, clarinet & saxophone
- Guitar (electric and acoustic), ukulele and bass guitar
- Voice
- Drum kit
- Trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, euphonium and baritone horn

Many of our pupils learning instruments choose to take graded music examinations and our teachers will support pupils from beginning to learn their instrument and preparing for Grade 1, through to taking Grade 8 and beyond.

Private instrumental tuition is entirely optional and costs £99 per term for a paired weekly lesson and £165 per term for an individual lesson.

We have a wide range of musical ensembles taking place each week. These are open to all pupils as appropriate, and are all entirely free of charge. They vary slightly over time due to demand, but at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, the weekly ensembles include:

- Orchestra
- String Ensemble
- Woodwind Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble
- Brass Ensemble
- Lower Brass Ensemble
- Trumpet Ensemble
- Jazz Band

- Young Voices (Year 7 & 8 Choir)
- Senior Choir (Year 9, 10 & 11)
- Samambaia (Brazilian style percussion)
- Whole School Musical

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.

There is a large scale concert/performance at the end of each term and then other performances for different groups as they arise (recent examples have included performing inside Wollaton Hall and performing at St Luke's Church in Hickling).

Further to this, we also stage a full musical production every other year (our most recent have been *Six!* In February 2024 and *Chicago* in February 2022). In February 2026, this will be *The Addams Family*. In the intervening year, we give members of the choirs, jazz band and orchestra the opportunity to join an international tour. In 2025, this was to Germany, with previous recent tours including Belgium and Italy.

Additionally, numerous pupils expand their musicianship by playing with local ensembles run by the Music Hub and others, such as Robin Hood Youth Orchestra and Nottingham Youth Orchestra.

In the future

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

We always seek to revise and refine our provision, but believe that at The Fernwood School, our pupils receive a first-class music education which gives them a wide variety of creative opportunities and enriches their experience of music.

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

Further links with organisations that The Fernwood School either partner with directly or see pupils involved with are below:

<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/>

<https://www.nottinghammusichub.org.uk/make-music/rhyo>

<https://www.nottinghamyouthorchestra.org/>

<https://www.nmtltd.co.uk/>