

MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUMMARY

NETHERHALL MEAD ACADEMY

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2027
Date this summary was published	May 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	May 2027
Name of the school music lead	Aimee Harrison
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jessica Norman
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Aimee Harrison, Elle Williams, Minesh Patel

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.

- All classes at Netherhall Mead have weekly, 1 hour music lessons delivered by highly trained professionals.
- The music curriculum offered is broad and diverse, covering a wide range of musical styles and genres from cultures and traditions from across the world.
- Netherhall Mead has strong links with the local music hub, with access to resources, training, and opportunities for both staff and pupils.

- Curriculum is drawn from a wealth of resources and knowledge that support the needs of our pupils, including Singup!, Royal Opera House, English National Opera, and resources and training provided by the hub.
- Our curriculum also supports the delivery of music within the wider curriculum, such as sound board sessions and sensory sessions involving music and movement
- Pupils access a wide range of both tuned and untuned instruments throughout their lessons, including whole class ensemble tuition in singing, ukulele, glockenspiel, recorder, and GarageBand. Instruments are high quality to ensure that musical experiences are both inspiring and enriching.
- Students have access to music technology, with projects in Garageband, and high-quality apps for sensory exploration and improvisation.
- 1:1 sessions with professional musicians focussing on progression are available with the following instruments:
cello/violin/piano/drums/glockenspiel/ukulele/singing

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.

- Pupils have opportunities to join in both singing and ukulele lunchtime clubs
- Sensory learners and those with profound and multiple learning difficulties can access a specific sensory lunchtime club
- Pupils access Singclusive Schools Choir, a remote choir led by Leicestershire Music during the school day.
- Pupils and families are encouraged to access Singclusive - an inclusive choir run through Leicestershire Music taking place fortnightly at the weekend
- Gifted pupils have opportunities to take formal grades in performance
- Soloists have opportunities to perform in public concerts in the locality
- Selected pupils have opportunities to work towards their Arts Award Discover and Explore
- Elle Williams offers specialist instrumental tuition based on musical improvisation using a variety of instruments to upper school students identified as musically gifted or motivated. Primary students work 1:1 on pre-requisite skills for musical expression, engagement and intensive interaction
- Accessible Orchestra Project: Elle and Shaun (volunteer musician with disability) have launched this project from Jan 2026, recruiting Netherhall as an additional community. They have created an accessible ensemble using traditional and accessible music technology instruments working with 1:1 and others identified as being musically able and interested from the wider

school. They are working towards an external, shared accessible ensemble event with our partner, Loughborough Grammar School on 8th July 2026 where young people will work alongside Loughborough Grammar scholars.

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.

Opportunities to enjoy live music (both in and out of school)

- We have annual performances by both the English Touring Opera and Carrot productions, offering sensory opera.
- We take part in the English National Opera's education projects, offering exciting composition and singing opportunities
- We take part in the Royal Opera House's education schemes, and have done projects on Hansel & Gretel, Carmen, and The Magic Flute. Students explore the medium of opera, and retell famous stories through the use of singing, drama and movement.
- We have made several visits to the Royal Opera House to experience live ballet or opera, and hope to go again in 26/27 season
- We host two community singalong events with local musicians, to which families, governors and friends of the school are invited
- Annually we visit De Montfort Hall to take part in Orchestra Unwrapped, and watch the London Philharmonic perform a programme of live music
- We take part in two concerts annually, 'Singclusive Live', performing a concert of songs alongside peers from other schools in the city and county.
- During our bespoke school festival fondly known as 'Shine', pupils have the opportunity to listen to peers perform in bands - not only from Netherhall Mead, but from other school across the city and county. Pupils experience a Mardi Gras band, and have had visiting artists (such as a local gospel choir)
- Every year, we are invited to the adjoining school's theatre production where all pupils access a performance by their pupils.
- Each year, our musicians are guest artists at a local SEND academy's summer festival. The singing club, samba group, and soloists attend.
- Our singing club takes part in an annual busking session at a local supermarket at Christmastime
- 2026 will see our first showcase concert at school, performed by our young musicians, raising money to support aspirational music events.

In the future

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

- As our cohort changes and expands, we aim to continue to provide bespoke musical instructions designed for the pupils of our school.
- We value real-life experience and are committed to seeking opportunities and experiences that are relevant, engaging and exciting for our pupils.
- We use pupil voice to allow pupils agency over their learning, and so their musical experiences in school will be governed by what they want – it is important for pupils to feel excited about their learning experiences.
- Where applicable, pupils will have the opportunity to progress in an instrument of their choice and perform to audiences both in and out of school.
- Arts Awards are offered to pupils, and are an area of growth and development for the school

Areas for growth

- Although offered, trips to a local arts venue to attend a weekly free lunchtime concert have not been taken up. With new school transport available, we will reintroduce this, and encourage small groups to take up the opportunity
- We would like to encourage more staff to access our Soundbeam 5 equipment. A programme of training will be implemented across school.
- Although we have a thriving singing club, and some very strong areas of singing within school, this could be further developed. Training on the use of Singup! Will be delivered across all classes to encourage high quality singing experiences in the classroom