

Music development plan summary:

Dixons Croxteth Academy – Liverpool

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

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the academy music lead	Karen Unsworth
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Silvana Palmeiri
Name of local music hub	Resonate Music Hub
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

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that students can achieve.

- Year 7, 8 and 9 students have one hour of music per fortnight – this will be reviewed in September 2025 to increase the amount of time given to music in the curriculum.
- Students explore performing, listening & appraising in music lessons through practical work, they develop skills individually and as a team in group work activities.
- The curriculum explores a wide range of musical styles and genres allowing personal progress in musical skills while learning and appreciating music from different cultures and styles building cultural capital in our students.
- At KS3 all students sing and play a variety of instruments to give them the opportunity to experience creating and performing while developing skills in a varied way; keyboards and music technology are the instruments used the most during the curriculum to allow for individual refinement.
- The curriculum is both accessible and challenging for all, to ensure that every student is capable of achieving their personal best under the expert guidance of a specialist music teacher.

- This is supported by information from our SEND team which helps music staff adapt teaching to support the needs of every child.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for students to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how students can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

- This academic year, new opportunities for independent peripatetic support for KS3 students are available in a number of musical disciplines; Guitar, Drums, Keyboard, Singing and Brass. Students who have opted for this receive a small group session for 20 mins for free, as it is fully funded by the academy. So far 56 students are undertaking lessons.
- Singing and Drum tuition takes place after school maximising the access for students.
- The department has an open-door policy which allows students to utilise the music rehearsing spaces available before school, after school and during lunch time on Mondays and Fridays when the music teacher is available to supervise.

The current enrichment timetable is as follows:

Day	Before morning meeting	During the academy day	After school
Monday	Independent rehearsal	Brass lessons	Singing
Friday	Independent rehearsal	Guitar lessons Keyboard lessons	Drums

- All students are informed and encouraged to attend extra group rehearsals held by the local music hub 'Resonate'. These are advertised and students are informed in morning meeting of these sessions.
- The school has links with the Valley Brass Band and students will be encouraged when available to attend rehearsals on Saturdays to progress and enjoy playing in a group music making environment.
- Brass days; attendance and showcases will be encouraged throughout the year for the students playing brass instruments.

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.

- Dixons Croxteth Academy has got talent: this event is being held to allow students to participate showcasing creative skills. This event is being run by the drama staff which should indicate and highlight more talent within the school giving an opportunity for performance.
- Dixons Broadgreen Academy's Christmas Concert Collaboration: singers, guitarists, dancers and drama acts from the school will take part in the Christmas Concert working towards a series of collaboration items within an academy concert.
- Christmas performance: opportunities to showcase some of the work done for the collaboration event within the school environment through morning meetings.
- Community singing event.
- Reward trip: this will involve students going to the Liverpool Philharmonic orchestra to watch a live orchestra performing.
- External visitors: students will experience live performances from external sources throughout the year and can watch live performances in and out of the school environment.
- Collaboration concert, summer 2025: students will travel to Bradford to participate in an academy trust rehearsal / showcase celebrating talent across the trust.
- Brass day: students working with the Valley Brass Band will attend a brass day with a showcase performance to share their achievements.



In the future

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

- Increase curriculum time for KS3 music to one hour per week.
- Addition of music technology to the department; students need to have hands on experience and gain skills in creating music using music technology. This will involve looking at the space within the music department and finding a way to house computers.
- Building music technology into the KS3 curriculum for September 2025.
- Introduction of BTEC music tech award: level two course for those students wishing to continue their musical studies into KS4.
- Increase of student participation in extracurricular activities and peripatetic lessons.
- Increase the peripatetic provision across the school.
- More opportunities for performance / showcase.
- Primary school links and showcase events – liaise with the local primary school to discuss the curriculum provisions and provide live music and performances.
- Cross curricular opportunities with Drama.
- Links with local community groups – Liverpool Lighthouse / Gospel Choir.

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](#)
- [Resonate Music Hub](#)
- [Model Music Curriculum](#)
- [National Curriculum for Music](#)
- [Liverpool Philharmonic](#)

