

Music development plan summary: Rayner Stephens High School

Dear Reader,

The document below outlines the Music Development Plan for Rayner Stephens High School for the academic year 2024-2025. This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students in classroom curriculum and extra-curricular music. This information is to help students, parents and carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' music education.

I am proud to work at Rayner Stephens High School, and want to to aid them through school music to build a life-long-love of music for the future.

Yours

Ms Hague

Head of Music

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	C Hague
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Z Lund
Name of local music hub	Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Tameside music service

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.

At Rayner Stephen's High School, music is an integral part of the school curriculum. We deliver a high-quality music provision across KS3 and KS4.

Our KS3 curriculum has been revised to ensure to include the key features of the national plan for music education. Our school music curriculum is also informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021), which is a piece of non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3. As a school we are proud that our school timetable curriculum includes 2 hours of Key Stage 3 (KS3) music over a fortnightly timetable. This allows us to fully develop our Schemes of Work which cover the 3 main strands of the National Curriculum for Music: Performing, Composing and Appraising, ensuring that students get good exposure to different topics and skills throughout the key stage.

During lessons we give access to group music making experiences across a range of instruments and voice. The KS3 curriculum is scaffolded so that prior learning is built upon lesson by lesson but also topic by topic, so students not only broaden their skill sets by trying new instruments but also deepen their musical learning and abilities by developing specific skills. Students in KS3 are encouraged not only to develop their appraising and theoretical skills and knowledge, but also their practical musicianship skills which aids them with both performance and composition. Students have access to a variety of instruments throughout KS3, developing and honing their skills as they progress through the curriculum. Vocal music is also an important part of the music curriculum, with students encouraged to sing as a class, part of a group and individually.

At Rayner, we have a suite of MAC computers, which are used throughout both key stages for composing and arranging music. The skills developed in KS3 provide a strong foundation of knowledge for Composition and Production at KS4. Through GarageBand students develop skills in digital production and composition, using industry standard equipment.

At KS4, students opt for music and follow the **BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice** and receive 6 hours of tuition per fortnight.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/music-practice/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-music-practice-2022-spec.pdf>

The KS4 curriculum is developed in line with the course requirements, but also so that prior learning is built upon. Following this qualification, students engage with

performance, creation and production skills but are able to specialise within the realms of the courses on a specific instrument, voice or via performance or production outlets. This pathway allow for progression to KS5 to carry on and pursue musical learning at a higher level at both vocational level 3 and A level.

Our full curriculum and information can be found on the school website:

<https://www.raynerstephens.org.uk/school-life/curriculum/departmental-information/music>

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.

At Rayner Stephens High School, co-curricular music opportunities are in constant development. During Personal Development time, co-curricular activities are offered. Sessions offered include: Violin, Piano, Guitar, Choir and KS4 Band.

Our ensembles include:

- 1) Choir (7-9)
- 2) Year 7 Harmony choir (selected voices)
- 3) Rock band

Students are able to play for fun or with more academic rigour. Some students learn aurally, whilst others learn by ear with music notation. This learning journey is decided through a discussion with parents and students for what best suits each child. We are really proud of this high level of communication that we have in place.

When appropriate, students are entered for Graded Music Exams via the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) or using Rock School London (RSL). Students are able to have one-to-one lessons, or opt for small or larger group tuition. For more information on graded music exams see the following links:

<https://www.abrsm.org/en-gb>

<https://www.rslawards.com/rockschool/>

The department has 3 practice rooms, providing students with space for private practice and individual lessons during the school day and outside of classroom teaching time. This regular access to practice spaces allows students to further improve their skills that have begun in the classroom or the co-curricular groups.

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.

For 2025 the music department is going to create links with the DofE cohort and perform as part of PD+ community café. This will act as a springboard opportunity for us to then further develop performance opportunities once students have had experience of performance in a more informal setting such as concerts in school, performance opportunities in assemblies and the wider school community.

We have links to Global Beats, a local company offering workshops in world music, giving workshops in Djembe and other instruments to our students.

The department has planned a trip to London for 2026 with the opportunity for students to see West End musicals and take part in a Lion King workshop.

In the future

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

Future Developments

At Rayner Stephens High School, we are committed to continuing the growth of co-curricular music provision, including the expansion of individual instrumental lessons with links to Tameside Music Service. In addition to this we intend to establish regular performance opportunities, such as a Christmas concert and other performances being a regular calendared event.

We are hoping to establish a bi-annual West End Musical trip to London to experience shows and take part in workshops.

We are looking to begin the journey to gain Artsmark Bronze award. We are also looking at creating links with our feeder primary schools to establish a festival of music as an annual event.

We also are aiming to collaborate with other secondary schools and develop wider community links with views to creating performances and music opportunities and establishing a new music culture.

Further information

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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people>

Tameside Music service, plan for music education, as well as offering a wide range of ensembles and music lessons. Please see their website for more information.

<https://tamesidemusicservice.com>