Music development plan summary: Beech Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2027
Name of the school music lead	Katy Craig
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Nottinghamshire Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Inspire Youth Arts

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.

At Beech Academy, music is recognised as a powerful vehicle for communication, self-expression, creativity and personal development.

All pupils at both sites access one music lesson each week throughout Key Stage 3, delivered by a specialist teacher from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Music Hub. From September 2026, pupils have been able to continue their musical studies into Key Stage 4, currently study the BTEC Level 1 Introductory Award in Performing Arts.

Our music curriculum is underpinned by the belief that music is a universal form of expression and that every learner should have access to meaningful and engaging musical experiences. Through a progressive programme of study, pupils develop their skills in responding to, creating and performing music, while building confidence, communication and independence.

The curriculum is inclusive in design. Sensory, exploratory, creative and performance-based approaches, alongside accessible technology and adaptive instruments, ensure all pupils can participate and succeed.

Pupils experience a wide range of musical styles and genres and regularly perform using instruments including guitars, ukuleles, djembe drums, keyboards and accessible music technology.

Learning progresses from sound exploration and musical communication to ensemble performance, composition, improvisation, digital music production and public performance. Music-making is highly collaborative, and pupils have regular opportunities to perform, create and work with others through curriculum activities, school showcases and wider performance opportunities.

Progress is assessed through the school's Music Progression Overview. Assessment recognises pupils' musical knowledge, skills and progression over time.

The music curriculum at Beech Academy is well-resourced, with a wide range of percussion, string, keyboard, and other instruments. Additionally, it is equipped with a class set of iPads featuring specific music software such as Charanga and GarageBand.

Part B: Co-curricular music (Music tuition, choirs & ensembles)

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.

Beech Academy is committed to providing opportunities for pupils to develop their musical interests beyond the curriculum. These opportunities include all pupils being able to access:

- one to one instrumental tuition, delivered on both school sites. This tuition is free of charge and supports pupils to develop their musical skills, confidence and independence while providing clear progression routes beyond the classroom. A range of instruments are available, including both traditional instruments and digital instruments, including accessible intstruments.
- participation in a cross-site and cross key stage digital ensemble group on a Friday morning as part of the school's enrichment activities.
- Saturday morning Rock School programme at The Old Library, Mansfield, where pupils further develop their skills in band performance, songwriting, recording and live performance.
- the opportunity to work on creative projects with specialist inclusive music organsiations and professional arts partners, for example, Orchestra of the Swan and New Frequency on creative projects.

Pupils are able to borrow instruments through school to use at home and they have on-site facilities (The Music Hub) where they can rehearse and practice between lessons.

All students, regardless of year group or school site that they attend are able to attend the provisions outlined above at no cost to families. Inspire Youth Arts is the delivery partner for co-curricular music.

Part C: Musical experiences (Events & Performances)

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.

- Beech Academy provides a rich programme of musical experiences throughout the academic year, ensuring that all pupils have opportunities to engage with live music as both participants and audience members. Through partnerships with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Music Hub, Inspire Youth Arts and Able Orchestra, pupils are able to access a range of inclusive music-making opportunities, work alongside professional musicians and perform to live audiences.

For example;

- Pupils experience performances from professional musicians and ensembles, including recent visits from New Frequency and the Red Hot Swing Band.
- Pupils participate in twice-yearly Music Showcase events, held in school at Christmas and in the Summer Term, where they perform to families, peers and the wider school community.
- Through curriculum music, BTEC Performing Arts and wider enrichment activities, pupils regularly develop and perform their own musical work. Last year, all Key Stage 3 pupils participated in live performances as part of their music curriculum.
- Pupils also have opportunities to take part in larger-scale performances beyond school. In 2025/26, pupils participated in the Catapult Dance Festival at Mansfield Palace Theatre, performing live on stage following a programme of music and dance workshops. Similar opportunities are planned throughout the year, enabling pupils to work alongside professional musicians and artists, perform in a range of settings and develop confidence, creativity and enjoyment through music.
- Annually, all pupils attend a pantomime at Mansfield Palace Theatre, giving them access to high-quality live theatre and music performances.

- The school works closely with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Music Hub, Inspire Youth Arts and Able Orchestra to provide additional musical experiences and progression opportunities. A number of pupils attend Rock School at The Old Library in Mansfield, where they develop their performance skills and perform to live audiences.

The experiences outlined above are provided to students at no cost to families. A small admission fee may be in place for families attending performances, although school ensures that financial hardship is not a barrier to attendance.

In the future

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

Over the next three years, Beech Academy aims to further strengthen and expand its music offer, continuing to ensure that all pupils have access to high-quality, inclusive musical opportunities both within and beyond the curriculum. Key priorities include:

- increasing participation in extracurricular music-making, including the Friday morning ensemble group and attendance at Inspire Youth Arts Rock School and expanding opportunities for pupils to engage with regional ensembles, live performances and community music projects;
- increase the amount of teaching time available for instrumental lessons;
- introduce vocal lessons on a one to one basis;
- introduce a school choir or vocal ensemble;
- develop progression pathways that enable pupils to move from curriculum music into enrichment opportunities, accredited qualifications and, where appropriate, further education, employment and careers within the creative industries.
- provide leadership in music opportunities through participation in the Able Orchestra Pioneers programme;
- developing the dance and music offer;
- reviewing progression pathways into Key Stage 4 and 5; offering Level 2 qualifications where possible;

Alongside this, the school will continue to work collaboratively with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Music Hub, local schools and cultural organisations to share best practice, develop inclusive music provision and increase opportunities for pupils to perform and collaborate with others across Nottinghamshire.

Further information

Pupil voice plays an important role in shaping the music offer at Beech Academy. Through regular consultation activities, pupils are given opportunities to share their

views, interests and aspirations, helping to inform the development of musical experiences and enrichment opportunities across the school.

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.

Please see below links to the partners that we work with at Beech:

Inspire Youth Arts Inspire Youth Arts | Inspire - Culture, Learning, Libraries

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Music Hub Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Music Hub | Inspire - Culture, Learning, Libraries