

Music development plan summary: Longdendale High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	R. Marsh
Name of local music hub	Tameside Music Service

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 Longdendale High School, music is an integral part of the curriculum, with students receiving two hours of music lessons per fortnight at Stage 3. Those who choose to pursue music at Stage 4 study GCSE Music through the **OCR exam board** and receive six hours of music lessons per fortnight.

During Stage 3 music lessons, students develop their **practical musicianship** by learning to play a range of instruments. Initially, they receive **keyboard** tuition, followed by opportunities to explore other instruments, including **guitar, drum kit, and ukulele**. Whole-class ukulele tuition enables students to engage in ensemble performance, and they are encouraged to form small bands to develop their collaborative skills.

Vocal work is also an important element of the curriculum, with students given the opportunity to sing both individually and as part of a group. Additionally, we are fortunate to have a suite of **Apple Mac computers**, allowing students to explore composition and arranging using **GarageBand**. Through this, they develop fundamental skills in digital music production, providing a strong foundation for **composition** coursework at Stage 4.

Our full music curriculum and associated information can be found on our website, here: <https://www.longdendalehighschool.org.uk/learning/departamental-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.

Extracurricular Music and Individual Tuition at Longdendale High School

At Longdendale High School, all students have the opportunity to receive **individual instrumental tuition**. Lessons are available for a wide range of instruments, including **brass, woodwind, strings, drum kit, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard/piano, and singing**. These lessons are delivered in partnership with **Tameside Music Service** and take place during the school day.

We are fortunate to have several practice rooms, providing students with space for both individual lessons and independent practice outside of classroom teaching time.

Students receiving instrumental tuition also have the opportunity to participate in **performances** throughout the year.

For more information, please see the next section.

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.

Events and Performances at Longdendale High School

At Longdendale High School, we host a variety of performances throughout the year. Our annual **Christmas concert in December** is a highlight of the school calendar, attracting a large audience and consistently selling out. The event features performances from the **school choir**, which sings both as an ensemble and in smaller group settings, alongside numerous **solo performances**. The **school band** also plays a key role in the concert and regularly performs at school assemblies, including our **Golden Ticket assemblies**. Many of our school performances can be viewed by

pupils, parents and the wider community on our school YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@longdendalemusic3377>

Beyond school events, our **school band and solo singers** represent the school at external performances, including the **Aspiration Presentation Evening**, which has most recently taken place at **Dukinfield Town Hall**.

In addition to concerts, Longdendale High School is staging a **full-scale musical production** in 2025: **Matilda Junior**. Pupils in **Years 7 to 10** have had the opportunity to audition for **singing and acting roles**, with the production set to take place in **July 2025**, featuring **two matinee performances and two evening performances**.

Rehearsals for **Matilda Junior** take place **twice a week**—once during **elective time (Period 6 on Wednesdays)** and **after school on Fridays**. **Pupil participation in this year's production has been excellent.**

In the future

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

Future Developments

At Longdendale High School, we are committed to **continuing the growth of our extracurricular music provision**, including the steady expansion of **individual instrumental lessons**. Additionally, we intend to establish our **annual school production as a permanent fixture** in the school calendar.

Looking ahead, we plan to **collaborate with a nearby school** to arrange reciprocal visits, allowing pupils to **attend each other's productions** and gain insight into different performance experiences.