

# Music development plan summary: Litherland High School

## 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	N Barker
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	J Baines
Name of local music hub	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	<a href="#">Sefton Music Service</a>

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.

### Allocation of classroom music time

Students in years 7-9 receive one period of music per week. Students who opt to study [BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music](#) in years 10 and 11 receive five periods of music per fortnight as well as a peripatetic instrumental/vocal lesson, which is free of charge.

### Curriculum content

Information relating to the music curriculum can be accessed [here](#)

Our school music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021) but we operate our own customised [music curriculum](#) where content has been selected which is relevant to our own Litherland High students – to reflect their context locally, and to embed the discussion of creative careers within the curriculum in accordance with [Gatsby benchmark 4](#).

We recently developed three careers-focused schemes of work for our curriculum:

- *'Life at Sea'*, aimed at year 7 students.
- *'At the Movies'* aimed at year 8-9 students.
- *'Liverpool, City of Pop'*, aimed at year 9 students

which were made available to all schools in the Sefton, Knowsley, St Helens, Halton and Wirral area via the Merseyside Music Education Hub Alliance Talent Development Programme: [Creative Futures](#): Toolkit Strand.

We recently participated in a curriculum evaluation research project with a researcher from Birmingham University School of Education.

We are also trained in the [Musical Futures](#) philosophy and use their resources and methods extensively to support the year 7 to 9 curriculum.

## **SEND**

In addition to the [Graduated Approach](#), we are continually increasing access for students with disabilities and supporting students with special educational needs (SEND) by providing sensory tools like ear defenders, access to quieter practice rooms and modified activities to support physical disabilities and sensory needs, modified whole-class resources to aid visual conditions such as Irlen's, and dyslexia-friendly resources (after consulting with students).

Our Head of Music is a part-time [Research Associate](#) in music education for children with a hearing impairment at University of Liverpool's Acoustics Research Unit. She worked with educators of deaf children developing music teaching methods using specialist [vibration equipment](#).

### **Key stage 2 provision at Litherland Moss Primary School**

We provide classroom and co-curricular music provision for key stage 2 students at our co-located primary school, [Litherland Moss Primary School](#). This provision was initially financially supported by [Sefton Music Service](#).

This has greatly strengthened the teaching of the music curriculum at Litherland Moss and the offer that students receive. We anticipate that these students will have a higher music attainment level on entering year 7. We also believe that moving through the secondary building to reach the music classrooms will aid transition to year 7 as Litherland Moss students will be more confident in navigating the building and will have experience of secondary classrooms and teaching.

## 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.

### Instrumental tuition

As well as weekly classroom music lessons for all year 7, 8 and 9 students, we offer subsidised instrumental tuition with professional tutors in the following instruments:

- **Vocals:** popular music vocals, musical theatre vocals
- **Strings:** classical guitar, violin, ukulele, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, electric guitar
- **Woodwind:** flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon
- **Percussion:** drums, piano

Lessons are offered in 20-minute time slots, once per week throughout the school day.

Our instrumental tuition staff are highly qualified musicians, performing regularly around the North West and further afield. Many are also classroom teachers, music examiners, composers and researchers who are experienced in working with children and young people.

### Fees

Lesson costs are subsidised by school to keep parent/carer contributions as low as possible. Lessons for our BTEC Music students in year 10 and 11 remain free of charge, subject to satisfactory attendance.

Fees are payable half-termly, via [School Gateway](#)

£5 for a 20-minute individual or band session, per week, payable termly in advance.

### Practice and progress

Every child on the instrumental tuition programme is entitled to a free loan instrument from [Sefton Music Service](#), allowing them to demonstrate commitment to their chosen instrument before they ask you to purchase one!

Throughout the year we will provide opportunities for students studying an instrument to perform for different events e.g. at primary schools, within the community and at whole school events. We will keep you informed of these and would love you to join us in supporting your child.

## Graded music examinations

Students also have access to graded music exams ([Rock School](#), [Trinity College](#), [Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music](#)) if they wish to follow this route.

One of our classroom teachers is an International Examiner for Rock School so we are well-versed in the requirements for Rock School examinations.

## Co-curricular groups

We operate the following music activities:

- **Violin club (key stage 2)** (1 hour/week, after school)
- **Violin club (key stage 3)** (30min/week, lunchtime)
- **Keyboard club** (30min/week, lunchtime)
- **Guitar club** (30min/week, lunchtime)
- **Vocal club** (30min/week, lunchtime)
- **Vocal rehearsals** for musical theatre show (*'Legally Blonde'* 2025) (3 hours/week, after school)

Praise points are awarded for attendance at all clubs.

## Practice and rehearsal spaces

Access to our four practice spaces for peer-led music making is a key part of our co-curricular offer and is fully booked every day.

As well as offering space and facilities for students to develop their musical skills, this provision encourages the formation of bands and new friendship groups, centred around making music. The practice rooms also function as a safe space for less gregarious students during unstructured times.

- Practice rooms 1-4 (15mins at break, 3 days a week)
- Practice rooms 1-4 (30mins, lunchtime, 4 days a week)
- Practice rooms 1-4 (1 hour, after school, 4 days a week)

We operate a music pass system for students wishing to book practice rooms. Praise points are awarded for every session attended.

## Weekend music

We signpost students who are making good progress to the main [Sefton Music Service](#) activities on Monday and Friday evenings in Formby.

## 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.

Throughout the year at Litherland High School there are multiple opportunities for Performing Arts enthusiasts to see professionals perform and engage in large scale productions themselves.

### Forthcoming events

- Key stage 2 carol concert, supported by year 7-11 musicians and singers, December 2024
- Theatre trip to view a performance of '[Dear Evan Hansen](#)' at Liverpool Empire, November 2024
- Behaviour reward show in aid of year 11 Prom, December 2024
- Year 10 Music trip to the [British Music Experience](#) and [The Beatles Story](#) in Liverpool, to support their BTEC Tech Award studies, January 2025
- '[Legally Blonde](#)' is our main musical theatre production for 2024-25 and will be staged with a 12-piece live band across three nights, February 2025
- Sing for Sefton performances, June 2025.

### Recent pupil performances

- School productions of '[School of Rock](#)', '[Grease](#)' and '[We Will Rock You](#)' where students performed both on stage and as musicians in the band 'pit'
- Christmas shows featuring live music and drama performances
- '[Livo's Got Talent](#)' shows featuring live music
- Behaviour reward concert featuring live music which is set up and run by year 10 and 11 music students to raise funds for year 11 'prom'
- Anti-Bullying week shows featuring live music and drama performances
- Break and lunch-time performances in the main public areas of the school.

### Recent music visits

- Yamaha big band experience (2022) where we hosted our own students and 700 primary school students from across the City Region to watch the 28-piece Louis Dowdeswell Big Band performing in our theatre, followed by a "meet the instrument" workshop with professionals from [Sefton Music Service](#).
- We have great links with Aintree Racecourse and have operated day long trips with year 10 BTEC students to watch the setup of their '[Jockey Club Live](#)' live music events, including Nile Rogers and The Lightning Seeds. Students toured

backstage, then met and interviewed industry professionals involved in the event, before returning to watch the evening show.

- Year 10 students visited the [British Music Experience](#) and [The Beatles Story](#) at the Albert Dock, to support their work towards the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice.

## In the future

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

We have reviewed ourselves using the MIDAS2 self-evaluation framework operated by [Sefton Music Service](#) and have identified three key areas for developing our offer further:

- We will operate more music-specific trips:
  - We will run a trip for students in year 7-9 to see the [Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra](#) in March 2025
- We will provide more opportunities for large-scale music making, particularly participation in external singing and playing events
  - We will continue working with our string and guitar groups to enable them to progress towards participating in [‘Orchestras for All’](#) meet-ups
  - We will participate in workshops and a large-scale performance through the [‘Sing for Sefton’](#) project
  - We will participate in the *‘Sing for Sefton’* Secondary choirs evening event at The Atkinson, Southport in June 2025
  - We will undertake CPD via the Independent Society of Musicians [‘Breaking the Singing Barrier’](#) to ensure we are aware of current best practice in widening participation in singing.
- We will work more closely with the teaching assistants who support students with SEND in the music classroom as music has specialist requirements that not all teaching assistants will be confident in
  - We will conduct research through a practitioner enquiry project and implement new ways of working and communicating with teaching assistants.