Music development plan summary:

Dixons Unity Academy – Leeds

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

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 academy music lead	Mrs Angie Alderson – Jagger
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Parmar
Name of local music hub	Bradford Music and Arts Service
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.

- All students at Dixons Unity Academy study Music one lesson per week (50 minutes) in Years 7 and 8. During these lessons students learn to play keyboard, ukulele and classroom percussion instruments (tuned and untuned) and engage in whole-class and ensemble singing. There are also opportunities to play drumkit, guitar and bass guitar, and to explore Music Technology via Ableton software.
- In Years 9, 10 and 11 Music is available as an option subject, with two timetabled lessons per week in Year 9 moving to three lessons in Years 10 and 11.
- Year 9 also have an addition one lesson on a creative arts carousel.
- Year 9 / 10 / 11 students are currently working towards a Level 1 / 2 BTEC Tech award in Music Practice.
- Our curriculum overview for each year group may be accessed
- Our curriculum intent document, explaining the rationale behind our curriculum and an overview of each year may be accessed on our website in the curriculum section and is linked here: Music-Curriculum-Principles-and-Overview.pdf

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.

We currently offer:

- Singing lessons, drum lessons (free of charge)
- Band club x 2 – KS4 and more open-ended musical futures style
- Choir – run by the singing teacher
- DJ club
- Other opportunities for students to engage in music-making outside of school are advertised in the department.

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.

- The Music Department puts on termly concerts. There are various ways in which students can get involved in these, both through regular classroom lessons or instrumental lessons, and through involvement in extra-curricular clubs and rehearsals. Students from all year groups are involved in each concert, always voluntarily.
- Students regularly perform at recognition events / in the Unity Community and for KS3 and KS4 recognition evenings. Some of these are events are held in the White Rose Banqueting Suite.
- Students participate in the 'Live at The Wardrobe' event. This is a fantastic opportunity for student ensembles of any musical genre (up to 8 performers in the group due to the size of the stage) to perform at an exciting venue, following an afternoon experiencing professional preparation and sound checks with The Wardrobe team.
- We participate in annual trust wide Dixons Collaborative Concerts (the most recent being in July 2026 at St. George's Hall, Bradford).
- KS3 students are also invited to participate in the Dixons Music Cup competition, which caters for students at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of performance.
- Participation in The Lieder Concert at Pudsey Civic Hall March 2026.
- Occasional visits from outside practitioners are arranged, to allow students to experience live music in a variety of styles.
- Involvement in all musical activities and attendance at shows and concerts are all provided entirely free of charge.

In the future

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

Further developing high quality singing:

- revisit KS3 curriculum to ensure more regular singing and musical technology.

Further developing the KS4 curriculum:

- Encourage a wider scope for instrumental specialism (Component Two).

Broaden / maximise our instrumental offer:

- attempt to secure funding for more instrumental teaching hours.
- opportunities to take students to see performances outside of school.

Increase the profile of music in the academy and wider community:

- develop partnerships with local schools and community groups.