

Music development plan summary: *Caister Academy*

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account 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

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Sasha Weihser
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Natalie Curston
Name of local music hub	Norfolk Music Hub
Name of other music education organization(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark

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.

Pupils receive 1 x 60 minute lesson per week across KS3. A big focus of Music at Caister Academy is singing, with year 7 units dedicated to musicianship through singing, as well as a focus on singing in all engage tasks for the other year groups. We also focus on the delivery of keyboard skills, guitar skills, and world music such as African and Samba drumming, giving pupils the opportunity to learn to play these instruments. Pupils also have the opportunity to develop skills on their instrument of choice in the instrument of the orchestra unit for year 7, and band skills in year 9. This is heavily based on the model music curriculum, as well as composition skills on a range of instruments and technologies.

At KS4, we offer the WJEC (Performing Arts: Music) qualification. As this is a vocational course, we have links with several practitioners within the music industry, such as Freshly Greated who have delivered song-writing workshops to support composition coursework.

The music curriculum is inclusive, everyone can access it no matter what their ability or need, with scaffolded support structures in place for pupils with SEND.

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 offer heavily subsidised small group singing lessons, run by our Performing Arts Coach. This costs the commitment fee of just £30 per year (£15 for pupil premium.) Instrumental lessons are also available for KS3 pupils, in violin, flute, and trumpet (£40 per term– 1 x 30 minute lesson per week.) We also offer individual and paired lessons in guitar and drums. At year 10 at KS4, all WJEC pupils receive a fully funded private/paired lesson in their chosen instrument to develop their technique and skill in preparation for the performing and composing units, and year 11 are able to pay for

their tuition if they choose. We offer a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities throughout the year, including band skills, choir, instrumental practice, orchestra, and at KS4, coursework clinic and additional 1-1 support sessions. We also offer practice rooms for individual and small group practice at lunchtimes and after-school.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organize, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Throughout the year, pupils at Caister Academy are given a wealth of additional opportunities to develop their music knowledge, skill and performance:

- Year 7 and 8 pupils sing at the beginning of every assembly
- Selected students perform at year 6 transition evening, open evenings, success assemblies and world music day assemblies
- Pupils participate in the Echoes of the East choir project, working under the direction of multi-award-winning vocal coach and choral direction, Mark De Lisser
- There are opportunities for all pupils to participate in the Christmas Showcase such as mass participation for all KS3 singers and instrumentalists as well as performances from the choir, Samba drumming group and the KS3 and 4 bands
- Pupils are also invited to audition as soloists in the Christmas Show (4 shows)
- Pupils can also participate in our annual singing gala which takes place at the local Haven holiday camp.
- Annual school musicals are open to all. Audition based for key roles but opportunities for everyone to be involved as members of the ensemble
- Summer choir performance at Great Yarmouth Minster
- Norfolk Music Hub offer various opportunities throughout the year which often culminate in a final performance, such as BBC concert orchestra workshop and concert at the Drill House
- Annual Music Industry workshop for selected year 9 pupils
- Trips to live performances, such as musicals

In the future

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

We are planning on introducing many additional opportunities in Music throughout the coming years, such as:

- Graded instrumental examinations with appropriate exam board (December 2025 – visiting instrumental teacher and RSL examiner, Dan Gay, to provide additional guidance and support)
- Continued professional development for all Music non-specialists (ongoing)
- Development of composition skills in KS3 and 4, through visiting professionals
- Monthly lunchtime open mic sessions for singers and instrumentalists
- Further music-specific trips and visits

Further information (optional)

Through links with Freshly Greated, many Caister Academy pupils regularly perform as part of open mic events (Play Promote Produce). They also offer workshops from songwriters in the music industry, as well as sound engineering. This link has also led to many Caister Academy pupils securing work experience places with Freshly Greated. Norfolk Music Hub organise open days and workshops for students interested in post-16 music education (Access to Music).