Music development plan:
Co-op Academy North Manchester

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/2027
Date this summary will be reviewed	Jan 2027
Name of the school music lead	M.Asher
Name of local music hub	One Education Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Anthem Music Co-op Academies Trust Central 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/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 Co-op Academy North Manchester in KS3, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 receive 1 hour of music per week.

The Curriculum is designed so that pupils get the opportunity to experience a range of music and learn about a broad range of musical styles and cultures. Pupils develop and refine their listening skills, music performance skills, and composition skills. The curriculum is designed to support those wanting to explore music further when moving into Y10 and GCSE. It also provides a musical experience for all to develop an appreciation and love for music to take into adult life.

Our curriculum fully encompasses the Key Stage 3 national curriculum. It is also informed by the model music curriculum through some repertoire choices, by the emphasis on singing discreetly and as part of the curriculum, and through the approach of listening, composing and performing.

Across all KS3 topics pupils learn to play an instrument, namely: ukulele, acoustic nylon-string guitar, electric guitar, and bass guitar; keyboard, piano, and using midi keyboard as part of music DAW production topics; djembe drums, samba equipment, and drum-kit; and singing.

In many topics (Reggae, Djembe drumming, Samba, The Blues, Britpop, Band Skills) pupils learn to play as an ensemble, to better understand the genre as it is meant to be performed but also to experience the pleasure of playing music with other people.

We have a strong partnership with One Education, who provide our steel pans provision, and also with Anthem Music, who provide our Woodwind provision. Other instrumental tutors are either employed directly by the school or through the Co-op Academies Trust Central Music service.

In KS4, pupils can take either GCSE Music or BTEC Music Practice Level 2. All Pupils receive free tuition on their chosen instrument.

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.

At Co-op Academy North Manchester we provide free instrumental lessons for all. Instrumental lessons play a vital role along side the music curriculum. These free one to one or small group lessons are offered at KS3 and also support students through GCSE and BTEC by preparing them for their ensemble and solo performance exams. The department is currently working on linking instrumental lessons with classroom curriculum lessons to help develop reading notation, music dictation and listening skills.

Instrumental lessons also provide the opportunity for any student in the academy to access music. Some pupils are able to continue learning the same instrument they have learned in primary school, due to the wide reach we have through our peripatetic staff.

At CANM we currently offer:

Piano lessons

Singing Lessons

Guitar lessons

Drum lessons

Woodwind lessons

Brass lessons

Steel Pans

Outside of lesson time, we offer the following ensembles as extra-curricular clubs:

Choir, Keyboard Club, Guitar Club, and Brass group. As well as these, we also have a school Big Band for invited pupils.

CANM also hosts the Co-op Trust Big Band, and community stage band. This is an opportunity and pathway for pupils to develop their music-making further across the co-op academies trust and the wider community.

CANM works alongside one education and hosts the North Manchester Steel Pan center on a Wednesday evening.

All tuition, extra-curricular clubs and bands are provided free of charge for all students.

We currently have a l loan scheme whereby instrumental pupils may borrow an instrument for the time they are learning with our peripatetic staff.

In terms of rehearsal time and access to instruments, we have four main practice rooms where pupils can rehearse at break and lunchtimes and after school when staff are available to supervise.

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.

Each morning pupils have opportunity to perform in assembly, so every child should hear live music played or sung once a week. The school puts on a Winter Celebration and a Summer Showcase every year, which includes performances by Big Band, Choir, Steel Pans, other bands and ensembles, and soloists.

Every year the school puts on a musical theatre production, the rehearsals for which are twice a week after school. This provides opportunities for engaging extra-curricular music making in school.

The school is also part of the biennial Trust-wide musical which is performed at Co-op Academy Manchester. Students from our school were involved in *Les Miserables* in 2023 and the production of *Sweeney Todd* in 2025 and 2027 Hadestown.

We have a great partnership with the EQTY project, who have been coming into our school, running composition workshops with selected students. This has had an

enormous impact on the quality of the music made at our school, especially in terms of bands and GCSE composition. As part of the EQTY music project all year groups receive a musical assembly to see professional musicians performing live to all students in school.

We aim to take our GCSE and BTEC students to the Bridgewater Hall to watch the 'Set Works' performance.

Our Big Band performs as part of the One Education Band on the Wall Jazz performance once a year, providing a fantastic opportunity for all participants to perform in a professional venue and to meet and hear young musicians and bands from other schools.

In the future

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

Our plans to develop the Music provision in our school are threefold:

1) To increase the *quality* of provision that is happening at our school. We aim to do this by:
- Improving the training of peripatetic staff to deliver notation reading and ensemble playing and for them to be fully aware of the requirements of both the BTEC and GCSE Music routes.
- Continue to develop and adapt the music curriculum to ensure that it continues to be board balanced and meet the needs of our diverse community. Developing the systems around instrumental teaching, such as timetabling, selection of students, resources and exam recording. As well as this we aim to improve attendance to peripatetic lessons by tightening up our register system so we can track pupils' attendance and progress.
- Rolling out our Instrumental Loan System - this will allow pupils to practise at home and therefore improve performance skills and lesson to lesson.
- Further developing our KS3 curriculum to include more notation reading, ensemble playing, composition and music theory.

2) To increase the *breadth* of provision that is happening at our school. We aim to do this by:
    - Employing a strings teacher. We currently have no strings provision at school. If we did have this provision it would mean that any child who learned e.g. violin at primary school could continue learning with us. It also means that the sound of string instruments would be heard in school.
    - Increasing the number of pupils on instrumental lessons by employing more instrumental staff for more time.

- Increasing the number of pupils in music clubs by advertising them more widely and planning and developing resources so that pupils feel they are progressing.
- Putting on a wider selection of ensembles in concerts.

3) To increase the *reach* of our provision and to improve our associations with our schools. We aim to do this by:

- Setting up communication with local primary schools so as to better support pupils coming to our school with their music-making Inviting primary schools to watch concerts.
- Further developing relationships with surrounding secondary schools in the Trust, through Music Network meetings and by contact through e.g. the Trust musical, to foster relationships which will support provision and to share approaches to KS4.
- Growing opportunities such as the Trust Big Band where pupils from other schools come to play music with our students, raising aspirations and creating excellent quality music-making.