



**The Trafalgar
School** AT DOWNTON



Music development plan summary:

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr Nick Charlton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Jonny Cole
Name of local music hub	Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	We work with independent peripatetic staff and the Salisbury Area Music Cooperative

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.

The Music curriculum at The Trafalgar School at Downton will develop in students a passion for life long musical appreciation. Through musical studies students will develop an understanding of its purpose, language, styles, origins, social diversity and global links. Students will discover the importance of the role of music and its impact on documenting global social diversity and the role music plays in recording and communicating world events and human emotion for future generations. Students will become 'real' musicians, enjoying the practical elements of the subject and building the confidence to perform inside and outside the classroom, whilst understanding musical traditions and discovering how music impacts life on a global scale.

You will find details of our music curriculum on our website here:

<https://www.trafalgarschool.com/subjects>

You will find more information about music at The Trafalgar School here:

<https://www.trafalgarschool.com/copy-of-assessment>

For clarity, music is delivered at the school in Year 7, 8 and 9 curriculum time. Students receive 2 hours per fortnight of music as part of our curriculum commitment. Students opt

for GCSEs they wish to study during Year 9 and begin GCSE study in Year 10. Students who choose GCSE Music receive 5 hours curriculum time per fortnight.

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.

Beyond the classroom, students can access peripatetic music tuition during the school day. Approximately 80 students do so currently. We offer tuition in all String, Brass, Woodwind and percussion instruments, as well as vocal tuition. Students can sit Trinity or Associated Board of Music examinations through their peripatetic teacher. Students can also access teaching in contemporary pop/rock instruments – Acoustic/Electric/Bass guitars, and drums. Students can access Rock School examinations through these teachers.

All students have open access to a wide variety of performance opportunities. We run several concerts per year (see below). Our most popular weekly performance group is our choir, with approximately 60 members. There are many, many opportunities for all performers in a very vibrant subject.

Music is taught in a specialist facility. The main teaching space is a purpose-built theatre space, with retractable seating for 80 people, a large performance space, lighting and sound equipment. Alongside this space is 3 practice rooms for small group learning or instrumental tuition.

During the week, students are able to access the music studio space for rehearsals at break, lunch or after school. The school orchestra is conducted by Nick Charlton with the choir coordinated by Nick, alongside Petra Randall, Salisbury's resident choral specialist.

Concerts take place in the Autumn term, with a Christmas Concert following quickly on. In December our students will take part in a mass-choir concert at Salisbury Cathedral. These are always sell-out performances with over 300 parents and community members attending. In the Spring term there is the annual House Music Festival which is accessed by all students. A culminating concert attracts a large 200-strong audience. In the Summer Term, students prepare for the Summer Arts Festival which takes place in Music, Drama, Art and Design and Design and Technology.

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.

As well as concerts, the subject has a very active set of Music Prefects. This group of students help to coordinate performance in assemblies, and wider school events. They ensure whatever we look to achieve in music, student choice remains at the very heart of our decision-making.

Beyond the school, our students regularly take part in community events with local primary schools, across our Trust, local churches and beyond.

We are very proud of being a supporter of Julia's House, a Wiltshire-based children's hospice. Music students continue to visit the hospice as part of our outreach work.

In the future

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

The subject is very aware of providing students with as many experiences as possible in performance but also in the other aspects of the music and performance industry. We provide many opportunities for non-performers to support our concerts and shows in lighting and sound. Students have made excellent progress in this aspect of provision, with students progressing onto further education and careers within this sphere. We want to continue to expand this, despite the lack of qualifications which support this.

As Drama develops within our school we wish to also collaborate with this team and provide students the opportunity to perform with a musical theatre performance over multiple nights.

Alumni of the Trafalgar School have progressed into careers within:

- Professional performance
- West End theatres
- Technical theatre
- Make-up and wardrobe
- Artist and repertoire

Closer links between us and local Post-16 providers so that we can support curriculum progression for technical students is part of development this year.