

Music development plan summary: *Old Swinford Hospital School*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	1 st September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss Lorna Hackett
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Robert Orr
Name of local music hub	Dudley Performing Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	OSH Peripatetic Team

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.

Music is taught every single week of the academic year. Key Stage 3 have one lesson per week, whilst Key Stage 4 have 6 lessons over a two-week timetable. Key Stage 5 access 11 lessons per week over a two-week timetable.

The Old Swinford Hospital School KS3 Music Curriculum is influenced in part by the Model music Curriculum, but has been designed in a manner to directly connect with both GCSE and A Level Set Works of Study. For example, Year 9 learn about Ralph Vaughan-Williams and Programmatic Music, through learning to compose a melody with the pentatonic scale and to accompany this with parallel movement, which then directly links with the Edexcel A Level Berlioz Symphony Fantastique (Programmatic Music) study and Vaughan-Williams' On Wenlock Edge.

In Year 8, we study the concept of Bossa Nova, with links directly with Samba em Preludio which is studied in Year 11, and also the concept of extended chord

harmonies, which are applicable both to GCSE's Killer Queen and compositional technique, when we typically learn to compose Blues Music as part of the Composition Component of the GCSE Free Composition.

In Year 7, pupils are introduced to the keyboard. Throughout the year they build on technical skills, from learning to compose a basic melody in D Dorian mode, with a drone accompaniment in 4,4, all the way to being able to play the main melody of Oom Pah Pah (which involves some chromatic movement), with broken chord accompaniment in 3,4. All projects are devised to both introduce or build on musical theory, as well as enabling pupils to progress as strong keyboard players.

In Year 8, we are able to use these keyboard skills, to enable pupils to accompany ensemble performances and to then be able to use technology to help them to compose and record ideas based upon the continuous build on theoretical learning. For example, we use Bandlab Education software towards the end of Year 8, to enable pupils to compose variations on the main melodies, chords and ground bass of Pachelbel's Canon, which they record and multitrack, learn to edit and manipulate sounds to modernise the Ground Bass genre.

Many of our learned pieces are internalised through singing in lessons at Key Stage 3. Pupils learn to warm their voices up safely and are challenged to sing with pitch as opposed to 'spoken rhythm'. Collectively, pupils learn to sing The Beatles Twist and Shout, several African a cappella 2-part harmony pieces, Love is Come Again trad., Bob Marley's Three Little Birds and Elvis Presley's Hound Dog.

You can access our Key Stage 3 Music Curriculum [here](#).

Both our GCSE and A Level teaching is centred around the Edexcel examination specifications, which enables pupils to continue their learning as musicians well and smooths the transition between [GCSE](#) and [A Level](#) study.

In every Key Stage 3 Music project, pupils learn to sing, play an instrument and/or compose. This is done in a mixture of independent, paired, small ensemble and whole-class ensemble work, depending on our learning focus.

Year 7:

Music in Africa: Whole Class singing and djembe playing

Introduction to the Keyboard: Individual keyboard skill learning

Melodic Composition: Continued keyboard skill development

The Beatles/ Popular Music: Whole Class and small group singing and keyboard ensemble skill development

The Waltz: Whole Class singing and individual keyboard skill development~

Music in Sports TV: Computer Tech-based keyboard skill development

Year 8:

Reggae: Whole Class singing, small group keyboard skill development and individual student instrumental inclusion (e.g. if a child plays guitar, they can use this as part of the project).

The Blues: Individual Keyboard skill development

Rock 'n' Roll: Whole Class singing, small group keyboard skill development and individual student instrumental inclusion (e.g. if a child plays guitar, they can use this as part of the project).

Samba: Whole Class Samba Band playing (surdo, Caixa, repique, tambourim, agogo)

Bossa Nova: Computer Tech-based keyboard skill development

Ground Bass: Computer Tech-based keyboard skill development

Year 9:

Folk Music: Individual Keyboard skill development or if a student has lessons on another instrument, they will use this as part of the project

Minimalism: Computer Tech-based keyboard skill development

Film Music: Computer Tech-based keyboard skill development

Baroque Concerto: Individual Keyboard skill development or if a student has lessons on another instrument, they will use this as part of the project

20th Century Programmatic Music: Computer Tech-based keyboard skill development

Popular Music: Computer Tech-based keyboard skill development

We are fortunate to receive ongoing support from our Music Hub, who keep us apprised of any changes in Music governance in the local area and with the DfE.

We are proud to offer all students the opportunity to study both GCSE and A Level Music. We follow the Edexcel specifications for both, providing young people with the opportunity to explore a wide variety of music, and the theory of some excellent Set Works of Study.

All of our pupils who have instrumental and vocal lessons, have the opportunity to take graded music exams. We celebrate our pupils achievements of grades in assemblies, and in our termly newsletters: <https://view.publitas.com/osh/michaelmas-term-newsletter-2024/page/8-9>

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 pupils the opportunity to learn one-to-one currently on the following instruments:

Woodwind: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Alto and Tenor Saxophone, Bassoon

Brass: Trumpet, Cornet, Euphonium, Baritone, Trombone

String: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

Percussion: Drum Kit and Orchestral Percussion

Guitar: Classical, Electric and Bass

Piano and Keyboard

Voice

Our lessons are all individual 30 minute lessons, though we offer paired lessons for Year 7 new instrument starters on orchestral instruments, to further encourage engagement in learning such instruments.

We have a rich ensemble programme, catering for students of all abilities:

School Orchestra (Grade 2 or above): currently 35 pupils in frequent attendance

Big Band: Jazz and Funk-themed for Grade 5 pupils and above.

School Choir: 40+ students attend weekly

Chamber Choir: an SATB Choir- students are expected to pass an audition to gain access to this choir. 40+ students in attendance.

String Ensemble: String players- early starters up to and including Grade 8

Woodwind Ensemble: Woodwind players- early starters up to and including Grade 8

Guitar Ensemble: all guitar players- early starters up to and including Grade 8

Rock Bands

All pupils are encouraged to attend and engage with our large extra-curricular programme, as well as with the Dudley Performing Arts ensembles.

We have a wide selection of instruments in the Music Department at OSH, which we offer on loan to pupils who have instrumental lessons. Instrument loans are free.

If a student qualifies as Pupil Premium, lessons are funded through PP funding, and some are funded through the Feofees bursary.

All ensembles are free for all students to engage with.

We are fortunate to have a Musician in Residence who both supports in all classroom lessons, but also supports evening practice for any student wishing to practice their instrument in the Music Department on an evening. This is open to all boarding students between 7 and 9pm during the week.

We have been fortunate to build connections with the CBSO in recent years. Our choirs performed with the CBSO during the Jubilee celebrations, and we have students each year participating in their Project Remix event.

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 year we have a set programme of events that our ensembles participate in:

Michaelmas Term:

Founders Day- a celebration of the school, where our choirs perform in church, and the whole school attends.

Year 7 New Student Concert: this event involves every Year 7 pupil. We perform repertoire that we learn in our class lessons during the first half term, and perform this over two evenings for parents. The event also allows some of our Year 7 students to perform solos on their instruments too.

Michaelmas Concert- all school ensembles perform. This includes pupils from all year groups.

School Carol Service: our church service where our choirs perform and the whole school attends.

Great Witley Carol Service: an event where our school choirs perform and sing for our past students of the school. We very much enjoy the trip to Great Witley, and the opportunity to sing in its church.

GCSE, A Level and Staff Performance Evening: this is an event where students from Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 showcase their performance work from class. Staff also get involved as we believe that staff should be role modelling great practice etiquette and the bravery to perform for an audience too!

Spring Term:

School Musical: This involves pupils from all year groups.

Instrumentalist and Vocalist Competition: This is an event for pupils of Grade 2 and above to perform for a visiting judge, who crowns a Junior and Senior musician with the accolade of Instrumentalist/ Vocalist of the year. This is a hotly contested event, which parents and students support. We frequently have 30+ students participating.

Summer Term:

Summer Concert: This includes all of our school ensembles, with pupils from all year groups.

KS3 and Staff Performance Evening: an opportunity for students in KS3 to perform as soloists, alongside staff, for parents.

Primary Singing Festival: Each year we invite all of the primary schools involved in the Stourbridge Learning Partnership, to join us in a day of song. Our choirs perform for the pupils who attend, we learn collaborative songs together and they all sing some repertoire of their own to the audience.

All of our events are free, and are supported by our school PA, who provide refreshments.

At points throughout the year, we also offer students the opportunity to visit and hear the CBSO perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall. We are looking forward to taking Year 9 to hear The Lark Ascending in March, and our Year 10's will be attending the Welsh National Opera in May.

We have built a firm relationship with the Music Department at Birmingham University. Each year, we visit for an enrichment day with our Year 10 pupils. This allows our students to engage with playing alongside their orchestra, receive music lectures and develop their performing confidence through the facilitation of performance workshops.

In the future

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

We continue to evaluate our Music provision in the school, and make adaptations where necessary. There will be changes made to the KS3 curriculum, when the GCSE and A Level examination board makes changes to the Set Works of Study. We will ensure our KS3 teaching aligns with any new required learning, ensuring pupils can secure success at all levels of their Music Education journey.

At the point where our rock bands feel more confident in their performing skills, we shall look forward to introducing a Battle of the Bands competition in school.

We are very much looking forward to our next Music Tour, which takes place in Summer 2026. The pupils in Choir, Chamber Choir, Big band, Orchestra and Guitar Ensemble will be attending this. They will be performing in a variety of settings in and around Salzburg.

We continue to look to appoint teachers of Indian Classical Instruments, after a request from parents and students that we begin to evolve this area of our school music

community. As such, we have not had any applications for a table teacher, but will continue in our search.