

Music development plan summary: Kingswinford Academy

“Learning about music and having the opportunity to play musical instruments and make music together is a vital part of a rich and rounded education. It has also been proven that music plays a key role in brain development. This is because it helps with the nurturing of language, motor skills, emotional intelligence and collaboration skills”. (DFE)

Our Music Curriculum and provision of enrichment activities, enables students to gain an understanding of themselves, their community and the world around them. It provides opportunities for students to develop their emotional and spiritual well-being as well as assisting students with life skills that are transferable to future career paths.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss N Abel
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs E Dodds
Name of local music hub	Dudley Performing Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark Artsmark

Part A: Curriculum music

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum centres around 3 cycles per year group which explore component knowledge of various styles; each one enhancing the students' skills and interests on a range of instruments and use of Music technology. Throughout Key Stage 3, students receive a 50 minute lesson per week and learn how to compose, perform and appraise music. Students have opportunities to develop their skills using the following instruments:

- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Voice
- Drums
- Ukulele
- Percussion

In Year 7, students learn the following cycles (centred around component knowledge):

Cycle 1- Elements of Music 1

An introduction to notation and musical ingredients, Gamelan, composing and performing in ensembles. Music Technology is also embedded within this project through the use of GarageBand.

Cycle 2 – Performance 1

Developing notation and keyboard skills (chords and melody) through an understanding of Rock 'n' Roll.

Cycle 3 – Elements of Music 2

Students gain an understanding of musical elements through studying Pop, Rock, Rap and Indie music. They compose their own song in ensembles and perform their musical ideas using their voice, keyboard, guitar, ukuleles and drums.

In Year 8, students learn the following cycles (centred around component knowledge):

Cycle 1 – World Music

Students study 4 musical styles from around the world (introducing them to the styles within the OCR GCSE specification). Students compose and perform music from these chosen styles (Samba, African Drumming, Indian Classical & Modern Bhangra) and then create their own composition using GarageBand that reflects their knowledge and understanding of one of the styles studied.

Cycle 2 – Performance 2

Students study a challenging keyboard piece, enhancing their understanding of notation, chords and performance skills.

Cycle 3 – Popular Music

Students study Reggae music, understanding the stylistic characteristics and perform musical features that relate to this style. Students also work in ensembles and create their own Reggae song for the voice, keyboard, ukulele, guitar and drums.

In Year 9, students learn the following cycles (centred around component knowledge and OCR GCSE Music):

Cycle 1 – Film and Video Game music

Students understand the role music plays within film and video games, focusing on leitmotifs, diegetic and non-diegetic music and study how composing devices can illustrate stories. Students then use GarageBand to compose their own soundtrack. This links to the Practical Component project and listening examination within the OCR GCSE Music specification.

Cycle 2 – Performance 3

Students understand the varied notations and perform a well-known popular song using a range of instrumentation. This supports the practical portfolio ensemble performance within the OCR GCSE Music specification.

Cycle 3 - Composition

Students create a composition in the style of their choice, embedding their skills, knowledge and musical understanding from Key Stage 3. Students are able to choose to use GarageBand or an instrument(s) of their choice. This links to the Integrated Portfolio within the OCR GCSE Music specification.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum embeds the guidance from the National Plan for Music Education as well as aspects from the Model Music Curriculum.

Key Stage 4 students follow the OCR GCSE Music specification and receive 2.5 hours of Music lessons per week.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Our Music enrichment programme supports the diverse provision we offer at Kingswinford Academy. Our ensemble groups include: Choir, Advanced Choir, Orchestra, Key Stage 3 Advanced Band and our Key Stage 4 Advanced Band. We also enable students' access to practise rooms so that they can rehearse their own Rock Bands or practise for Grade Examinations. Many of our students also attend ensemble groups led by Dudley Performing Arts who we have a close partnership with.

We have various performances throughout the school year which includes:

- Christmas Carol Concert
- School Production
- Summer Concert
- Open Evening
- Rewards evenings
- Community events
- Trust wide events – conference / concerts

In regards to instrumental tuition, students have access to lessons through our Music Hub – Dudley Performing Arts. Students have tuition on a range of instruments (including the voice). There is funding for disadvantaged students who opt for GCSE Music to support them with the performance element of the course.

The address to book instrumental tuition with Dudley Performing Arts can be found here: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/things-to-do/dudley-performing-arts/information-for-parents-and-young-people/music-lessons-in-schools/>

Part C: Musical experiences

Kingswinford Academy thrives on the opportunities we provide for our students to develop their personal potential. Throughout each year, students have access to various platforms to showcase their talents. Students from all year groups can access the many enrichment clubs the Music Department offers and all students are invited to perform in the concerts and productions held every year.

Every term there are numerous events (both within our school community and beyond), that students can participate in. These include:

- Christmas Carol Concert
- School Production
- Summer Concert
- Open Evening
- Rewards evenings
- Community events
- Trust wide events – conference / concerts
- Trips

As part of our Active Learning Week, students have the opportunity to watch a musical at one of the many theatres in the UK. We also have partnerships with Ingestre Hall (a specialised Arts residential) and also our local Music Hub – Dudley Performing Arts. Dudley Performing Arts have opportunities for both vocalists and instrumentalists to join one of their many ensembles.

We invite our school community to our Christmas Carol Concerts which are held at St/ Mary's Church, our summer concerts, awards evenings and also our school productions. External theatre agencies always congratulate us on the calibre of our school shows!

Some of our previous students include Blessing who won 'The Voice', Zach Robinson and Jessica Robinson who have starred in West End productions and films and many students have performed in bands and ensembles, performing both nationally and world-wide.

The cost of tickets to see our performances, varies in regards to each event. Our Christmas Carol Service raises funds for a charity chosen by our musicians as well as supporting St. Mary's Church in Kingswinford.

Throughout the year, our musicians also have opportunities to perform and collaborate with our schools from across the trust. The Music specialists work closely in organising events and have performed in various venues including the Birmingham ICC. Various workshops across the trust, are also arranged throughout the year which include vocal workshops, orchestral workshops or Rock Band workshops.

In the future

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

Moving forward, we hope that we can further explore our opportunities to work with professional musicians within the Music industry, experience more live performances, arrange an Arts residential trip and to continue to build partnerships within our local community.