



Music Curriculum Statement

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything”

- Plato

The Music Department

The music curriculum has been carefully designed to expose pupils to a wide range of musical styles and to continually develop the knowledge and skills involved in performing, composing, and listening and appraising at all key stages. Topics have been chosen that engage, stretch and challenge pupils of all backgrounds and abilities, as well as promoting a love of the subject of music. The department has based this curriculum on guidelines set out by the current National Curriculum for music as well as the ISM document which dissects this curriculum by Professor Martin Fautley and Dr Alison Daubney. The department houses a full keyboard suite and class set of ukuleles, as well as assorted percussion instruments and access to music technology through a booking system. The music department runs various extra-curricular activities and works together with the local music hub to provide quality instrumental lessons and a range of wider opportunities for pupils.

KS3

The KS3 curriculum sets to build on learning from KS2 and prepare pupils for the OCR GCSE course. A unit lasts for one half-term with a summative assessment and written feedback to round off each topic. Verbal feedback also plays a vital role in ensuring progress given the ‘live’ nature of music and provides opportunities for pupils to refine their work. Key vocabulary is introduced at the start of units and is continually embedded through the ‘5 a Day’ activity at the start of lessons. Performance and composition activities increase with difficulty unit to unit giving the opportunity to improve instrument specific technique, such

as on keyboard. All activities are differentiated to ensure that even musically gifted and talented pupils are sufficiently challenged. Links are made in units to cultural and historical context giving pupils a thorough knowledge of the style of music being studied. The KS3 curriculum also provides pupils with opportunities for self-growth, aiding in improving levels of self-esteem and confidence for transfer to the wider world.

Year 7

Building Bricks	Assesses prior knowledge and musical ability on listening, composing and performing skills. Introduces the musical elements.
Voiceworks	Gives pupils the opportunity to explore and gain confidence when using their voice. Opportunities for performance and arranging as a group. Key vocabulary relating to singing introduced as well as recognising intervals.
The Orchestra	Explores the orchestra and teaches pupils how to recognise orchestral instruments through timbre. Looks into famous composers and orchestral works. Develops ensemble skills as pupils perform as a 'keyboard orchestra'.
Keyboard Skills	Develops instrument specific technique on keyboard. Pupils look at staff notation and perform pieces in a five finger position. Opportunities for stretch and challenge through adding a left hand part.
Off-Beat	Puts a focus on the specific syncopation used in reggae music. Pupils learn about the cultural context of reggae as well as perform reggae songs as an ensemble using voice and instruments.
Ukulele Skills 1	Develops instrument specific technique on ukulele beginning with melody. Pupils look at tab notation. Pupils learn about the cultural heritage of the ukulele.

By the end of Y7 pupils should be able to:

- Know, understand, explain and be able to use the basic musical elements when listening and composing.
- Identify notes in the treble clef, from middle C to top A.
- Know the names and durations of notes and begin to have an understanding of reading rhythm.
- Use correct right hand technique when playing the keyboard.
- Understand how to read ukulele tab and play a melody.
- To recognise simple intervals.
- To recognise some instruments of the orchestra.
- Sing with confidence.

Year 8

Descriptive Music	Provides an opportunity to formally recap the elements of music and to use them when describing music that tells a story. Provides the opportunity for pupils to compose using musical devices and also to analyse and perform a piece of descriptive music, further developing keyboard skills to expand outside of a five finger position.
Music for a Special Occasion	Focuses on the fanfare and the way that they are composed using notes of the triad. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to notate their compositions and practise rhythm dictation throughout the unit.
The Blues	The historical context of blues is explored alongside the development of blues into rock n roll. The structure of blues is a main focus as well as improvisation using the C blues scale. Pupils also learn how to read notes in the bass clef.
Ukulele Skills 2	Continues the development of specific instrumental technique, this time moving onto playing chords on ukulele. Pupils learn to read chord diagrams and to perform four chord songs as a class band.
Music in Advertising	A mixed arts project involving music, art and drama to produce a radio advert in groups. Pupils learn the key features of a jingle and compose their own to incorporate into the final piece. Pupils can utilise the skills acquired so far to create a musical accompaniment for their adverts.
Hooks and Riffs	Pupils learn the key features of this fundamental device used in pop music. Activities include performing hooks and riffs in both treble and bass clefs, whole class pop song performances, composition and improvising workshops based on a riff.

By the end of Y8 pupils should be able to: (in addition to Y7 skills)

- Know, understand, explain and be able to use more sophisticated musical elements and devices when listening and composing.
- Identify most notes in the treble clef including accidentals.
- Know the names and durations of notes and be able to read simple rhythms.
- Use correct right hand and left hand technique when playing the keyboard.
- Understand how to read chord diagrams and play them on a ukulele.
- Understand different structures and how they can be used as a compositional tool.
- To recognise instruments used in blues and popular music.
- Perform confidently as part of an ensemble.

Year 9

Soundtracks: Film and Video Game Music	Explores how music is used to represent on screen action in both films and video games. Pupils use key vocabulary learned thus far to describe film music, as well as learning more sophisticated vocabulary ready for GCSE. Pupils also further develop keyboard performance and composition skills.
A Brief History of Music	Starts from the baroque through to classical and then romantic, pupils explore and learn the key features of music from these eras in preparation for GCSE. Pupils complete GCSE style listening questions and are given the opportunity to further develop performance skills though playing a piece from each period.
Music from Around the World	A whistle-stop tour of music from around the world including Bhangra, Calypso and Samba. Short performance, composition and listening tasks lead to a listening assessment at the end of the unit to test whether pupils know the background and features of each style.
Pop Music	Covers the history and development of pop music from the 1950s to the present day. Pupils explore different genres across the decades, further developing performance skills and developing pop music specific vocabulary.
My Music	Gives pupils the opportunity to explore their own music tastes and the modern music industry through performance and research projects. Pupils can see the vocational context of music and investigate avenues of music as a career.
GCSE Composing Skills	An opportunity for pupils to gain a deeper understanding of programmes like Musescore and Soundation as a tool for composing.

By the end of Y9 pupils should be able to: (in addition to Y7 & Y8 skills)

- Know, understand, explain and be able to use more sophisticated musical elements and devices when listening and composing.
- Identify most notes in the treble clef including accidentals and understand the notion of key signatures.
- Know the names and durations of notes and be able to read simple rhythms more complicated rhythms with assistance.
- Use correct right hand and left hand technique when playing the keyboard and begin to play hands together where this has not been possible before.
- Understand how to read chord diagrams and tab for ukulele.
- Use music technology resources to compose with some confidence.
- Recognise instruments used in world music.
- Perform confidently as a soloist.

KS4

The KS4 curriculum currently follows OCR GCSE Music and covers the content set out in the specification which includes a coursework unit that involves producing one solo performance, one ensemble performance and two compositions and an exam unit that covers the areas of study: Rhythms of the World, The Concerto Through Time, Film Music and Conventions of Pop. Throughout the course pupils are given opportunities to refine and improve their work in both a practical and written context and are regularly given written and verbal feedback in order to ensure progress. Instrumental lessons are also offered to ensure that pupils make appropriate progress on their chosen instrument.

Year 10

<p>Welcome to GCSE Music! Course overview. Exploring capabilities and techniques of chosen instrument. Recap of musical elements. Learning to recognise different instruments</p>	<p>Film Music Exploring how music is used in both film and video games. Includes famous film and game scores, but also classical music that has been used in film</p>	<p>The Concerto Through Time Exploring the key features of the concerto through the Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras.</p>	<p>Rhythms of the World Exploring music from different parts of the world including: African drumming, Calypso, Eastern Mediterranean folk music, Indian Classical Music, Bhangra and Samba.</p>	<p>The Conventions of Pop Covering rock n roll of the 50s and 60s, rock anthems of the 70s and 80s, ballads of the 70s, 80s and 90s and music from solo artists from 1990 to the present day.</p>	<p>Composition 1 Starting free composition using Musescore. Counts towards exam mark</p>
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Year 11

Coursework + The
Concerto Through Time
and Rhythms of the
World

Coursework + Film
Music and the
Conventions of Pop

Coursework and
revision

Revision

Exam preparation

GCSE EXAMS

