

Music development plan summary: [Birchwood High School]

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	24/25
Date this summary was published	September 25
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 25
Name of the school music lead	Mr Matthew Grogan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 aim of Birchwood's Music curriculum is to build musical skills in performance, listening and appraising, composition, musical theory and music technology. We do this through prescribed musical topics, and developing students own musical interests.

We hope students move from having basic skills in KS3 to advanced skills in KS5 and this is achieved through a variety of topics. Students start in KS3 with ½ termly units, moving to 'areas of study' for KS4 and 5. Each unit is designed to develop some, or all, skills in performance, listening and appraising, musical theory and composition. During KS3 the focus is on singing and keyboard skills, with basic theory, understanding of key terminology, recording and editing using ICT, and composing chords and melody. In addition to developing singing and keyboard skills, students can learn Djembe/ Samba drumming, and Ukulele skills.

Our KS3 curriculum sets a foundation for GCSE Music where the skills are extended, and students are encouraged to develop their own interests in performance (on an instrument or singing). At the end of the GCSE course students record 2 performances and compositions, this could also include 'music technology' performances. Finally, KS5 Music builds on the knowledge of KS3 and 4 with more advanced level of composition, musical analysis and extended composition. For KS4 and 5 we follow the OCR exam board.

Link to our Music curriculum map - Five Year Curriculum Map 2022.23 6th Form Music.docx

As part of the main school Music curriculum students get -

- *KS3 (year 7 & 8) 1 hr a week*
- *KS3 (year 9) 4 hrs over 2 weeks*
- *KS4 5 hrs over 2 weeks*
- *KS5 8 hrs over 2 weeks*

Music staff include 2 full time music specialists.

Resources -

Digital resources – suite of 14 computers – Cubase, Sibelius, Noteflight and Soundtrap

Physical resources – 5 practice rooms, pianos throughout the department, 3 drum kits, guitars and amps, suite of keyboards, class set of ukuleles, djembes and samba drums.

Assessment –

KS3 – ½ termly projects focusing on performance and compositions, listening activities set for home-learning and 'Teams' quizzes, yearly listening test.

KS4 – Area's of study projects end of unit assessments, termly feedback for performance and composition. Mock exams in year 10 and 11.

KS5 – 1 to 1 feedback on all aspects of the course, mock exams.

Students can take GCSE Music and A level Music at KS4 and KS5

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.

During each week students have the opportunity to take part in the following extra-curricular clubs -

- *Singing Club*
- *Male and female voice choirs*
- *Chamber Choir*
- *String group*
- *Orchestra*

We also have close links with the Hertfordshire Music Service and regularly collaborate with them, the Bishop's Stortford Music Centre is based at Birchwood. Recently, collaborations with the Music Hub included 'Get Playing' scheme and Primary School Workshops.

Students also can take individual Music lessons, through Herts Music Service, each week with visiting peripatetic teachers, currently we have students learning – violin, cello, piano, singing, clarinet, saxophone, drum kit, guitar, trumpet. In addition, Music lesson subsidies are available for FSM students and students who achieve grade 2 or more on an orchestral instrument and/ or taking GCSE and A Level Music (25% subsidy).

Many of our students also take part in the musical activities provided by the Bishop's Stortford Music School which is based at Birchwood. Also, we have several students learning at 'De Rosa' Music in Bishop's Stortford. Students who take individual Music lessons also can take 'grade' exams, and we recognise and support students who wish to take Music exams.

Our Music practice rooms are also available for students who wish to rehearse at break and lunchtime, students should see Mr Grogan or Mr Stock.

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.

Students have the opportunity to take part in many musical events at Birchwood these include -

Christmas Concert

Carol Service

Young Musician Competition

Chamber concert(s)

Summer Prom Concert

Primary School Workshop

Biannually Whole School Musical

These concerts and events are open to all students who take part in musical clubs at Birchwood, tickets for the main concerts e.g. Summer Prom are £5, however many of the events are free.

In addition to these concerts there are also performance opportunities for school events e.g. Open Evening

In the future

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

Developing Music further at Birchwood is something we are keen to do, some areas of development that we are hoping to implement over the next year include -

- *Provide opportunities for external musicians/ groups to run workshops*
- *Visits to local venues to experience live Music*
- *Developing a Music Tech and Ukulele Club*
- *Developing more links with feeder primary schools and developing a 'Singing Workshop'*
- *Encourage more students to take up individual music tuition by providing help with accessing instruments.*

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Hertfordshire Music Hub - <https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/hertfordshire-music-service.aspx>

Bishop's Stortford Music Centre - <https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/music-centres-in-hertfordshire/bishops-stortford-music-centre.aspx>

