



Music development plan summary: Little Heath School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Elysia Roberts
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ros Rayner
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

At Little Heath School all students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) study music for one hour a week. Students study a range of different topics and explore a variety of skills throughout these two years. The long-term plans can be found [here](#).

Our Key Stage 3 Music curriculum at Little Heath School is informed by the *National Curriculum of Music*. Following reading the non-statutory guidance the *Model Music curriculum*, our curriculum draws many parallels with this document. Performing, Composing, Listening and Appraising are key skills that appear in every lesson:

- Performance in the curriculum is practised in a variety of formats depending on the topic; solo performance, small group and on some occasions whole class performances are prevalent.

- Composition skills in Years 7 and 8 are executed in varying styles and genres. Improvisation as a skill is sometimes used to aid students with their creativity if appropriate.
- The Music department believe that listening to a piece of music is essential to not only understand its context, and the context of the topic but also to use musical vocabulary in context. Such listening activities take place once a term. In this exercise, students are expected to use the Elements of Music. For those who would like a challenge, we provide other music specific vocabulary for some students to use in context.
- Music notation is something which applies to all of the above. We start off with graphic score notation in the first term of Year 7 but move quickly onto traditional notation in the following term. Students gain an understanding of treble notation, rhythmic notation and simple time signatures in Year 7. In Year 8 the bass clef is introduced.

Singing is a skill that is prevalent in the first term in Year 7 and is practised a little each term. When students arrive to Little Heath School in September we use our voice and the body to learn and/or revise the Elements of Music. We also learn to sing a song for a Year 7 Singing Competition in the first term. After October half term, students start to learn to use the keyboard and from this moment it is the main instrument that students use to study the new musical skills and topics throughout Key Stage 3. In Year 8, students are given the opportunity to use the djembe drums in our African Drumming topic and the guitar in our Pop Music song structure unit.

At Little Heath School we pride ourselves in our inclusive curriculum to ensure that all students are able to access every topic so that they can realize their potential creatively. All students will be aware of our bands, Foundation, Intermediate, Higher, to ensure that they can progress at their own rate with the teacher's support.

At Little Heath School we encourage students to fulfil their best and enjoy doing it! All students at our school are able to take graded music exams if they wish. These are organised through their peripatetic teacher. In Year 8, students can choose to study music further at GCSE and even further at A Level; they have the choice to take either Music or Music Technology or both A Level subjects if they wish. Detailed long-term plans for these qualifications can be found [here](#).

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.

At Little Heath School we offer music tuition on several instruments and in varying formats including one-to-one and small-group sessions. The *Berkshire Music Hub* offer woodwind, classical guitar and voice lessons and we also have some private

peripatetic teachers who offer the following tuition: drums, electric guitar, bass guitar and piano. All lessons are taught during the school day. These lessons are available to all students at our school, paid for by the parent unless they have pupil premium eligibility. If the latter is the case, the school are able to assist with the cost.

The Music Department pride themselves with the extra-curricular timetable they provide. Our vocal groups include our Girl's Choir for all girls at our school and an auditioned Soul Choir for senior singers. Our instrumental ensembles include a Junior Band for Key Stage 3 students and our Senior Band for students in Year 9 and above. Students for the latter ensemble must be Grade 3 or above. These ensembles rehearse at lunch time or after school every week during term time.

Students have the opportunity to rehearse in a practice room during lunchtime or after school. These practice rooms are able to be booked at the beginning of the week so students can work on a solo item or a piece on which they have been working in a small ensemble.

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.

The Music Department are keen to provide as many musical experiences to our students as possible. The extra-curricular ensembles aforementioned rehearse towards two bi-annual concerts, the first, our 'Winter Festival' which takes place in December and our second, the summer concert which has a different theme every year.

We also have smaller performances for different year groups; a GCSE Performance Evening for Year 11 students to provide them with an opportunity to perform in front of an audience and an Upper School Recital evening so that our A Level students, and prospective A Level students have the opportunity to record the recital they are submitting to the exam board.

A week or two before our Winter Festival we have our Carol Service at Tilehurst Methodist Church where we pride ourselves at liaising with the Reverend to provide an event for the local community to attend.

In the summer we would also like to put on a musical as our work and relationship with the Drama Department continues to grow and develop.

In the future

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

Over the next academic year the department would like to continue delivering exciting curriculum lessons for all students. The department would also like to continue to provide musical opportunities for students who wish to participate in extra-curricular music activities.

It would be interesting to find out more about the music education that Little Heath School's feeder schools provide to ensure that the transition to secondary school is as fluid as possible.

During the academic year 2023-2024 the music department was experiencing a temporary change of management while a member of team was on maternity leave. Therefore in 2024-2025, the team would like to organise an orchestral trip for Key Stage 4 and 5 students. In the subsequent year they would also like to organise a trip to see a musical in the West End. These two opportunities were provided in summer 2023 and were very popular.