



# Music Development Plan Summary: The King's School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023-2024
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs A Mullinger
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss N. Wilkes and Mr N. Twelves
Name of local music hub	Devon Music Education Hub

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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' 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.

Our core expressive skills – generate, create, and appreciate – coordinate our shared endeavour across the Expressive Arts, of which Music plays a vital role. Through explicit teaching of observational skills, criticality, and exploration, we aim to equip students with the sensitivity and insight needed to be a successful musicians in singing, performing, composing and appraising.

We aim to encourage students to develop a more rigorous understanding of artistic intention and craft. Students build upon their critical and evaluative skills through their exposure to a wide variety of music in order to be able to listen with discernment. Students are supported by teachers and professionals who have a passion for all types of music, and have broad experience of performance and composition at the highest level. Specific information about our curriculum and half-termly curricular performances can be found [here](#).

All students at The King's School receive **one hour of Music** in their timetable in Year 7 and Year 8 in line with our 'Achievement For All' values. In Year 9, Music becomes part of the Technology carousel and students receive six to seven weeks of Music for two hours a week per year. Students are also encouraged to attend a weekly Year 9 Music Extension Club (see more information in Section B: co-curricular).

Our curriculum is accessible for all students, taking into account any prior experience, including students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We encourage all students to 'have a go' and all musical activities are adaptable depending on students' needs. Students gain an appreciation for Music,

learning about the musical elements through schemes of learning designed to develop their imagination and foster creativity.

All Key Stage 3 lessons include the opportunity to learn several instruments, with a particular focus on the voice, keyboard skills, drum kit, bass guitar, electric/acoustic guitar and the ukulele. Students are also able to use their own woodwind, brass and string instruments for particular activities in the curriculum. Students regularly work in pairs, small ensembles and even as a whole-class for particular schemes of learning. Students can explore their individual creativity when working with Music Technology. Funding for instruments, music technology and musical experiences in the curriculum is supported by Devon Music Education Hub. At KS3, students are encouraged to 'generate, create and appreciate' at various points throughout the academic year, sometimes covering two or three of these concepts in a lesson.

Music qualifications on offer to students at The King's School include graded music exams for all key stages in woodwind, brass, string, percussion instruments as well as the voice, piano, guitar and bass guitar. If students opt to continue their musical studies at Key Stage 4, they will receive five hours a fortnight of curriculum time gain a GCSE in Music following the Eduqas exam syllabus. Students will gain further understanding of Music as they 'generate, create, and appreciate' in more depth, including specific study of the set works *Africa* by Toto and *Badinerie* by J.S. Bach. Students are encouraged to receive individual instrumental/vocal tuition at this point, if not already receiving it, to aid their choice of suitable repertoire for the performance aspect of the course and receive instrument-specific support.

## 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.

Music tuition offered at The King's School includes lessons on woodwind, brass, string and percussion instruments as well as the voice, piano/keyboard and guitar/bass guitar. Most of these lessons are available as individual lessons, with some scope for small-group tuition in certain instruments/voice. Over a hundred students currently take advantage of these instrumental/vocal lessons in school. All of our peripatetic staff are highly experienced and help our students to flourish on their chosen instruments. These staff are also self-employed and set their own fees and lesson times. Students have the opportunity to take graded examinations in all instruments or can progress while just playing for enjoyment. Funding can be available for students receiving Free School Meals and this is organised by our school's learning coaches and the Music Department, as well as in conjunction with Devon Music Education Hub.

The King's School co-curricular offer is flexible and responds to upcoming performances and events, popular clubs with students, working around Music curriculum content, as well as being empathetic to other co-curricular activities taking place in other subjects. Well-attended ensembles and clubs in 2023-24 included:

- Leadership through the Music Leaders project
- 70s Musical Theatre Showcase rehearsals
- Year 7 Sing and Sign
- The King's School Choir
- The King's School Orchestra
- Gifted and Talented Singers
- GCSE Christmas Ensemble

- Year 8 Christmas composition rehearsals
- Nordic Yuletide Singers
- Staff Band
- House Musical rehearsals
- Year 9 Music Extension Club
- Elfyn Jones Composition Club
- GCSE Music catch-up and revision
- KS4 composition workshops
- Battle of the Bands rehearsals
- 'Joseph' cast rehearsals
- 'Joseph' pit orchestra rehearsals

All of these opportunities are offered free-of-charge to our students in line with The King's School policy of 'Achievement For All'.

The Year 9 Music Extension Club this year, explored new and interesting musical concepts through musical games. Students worked on group projects including performance and composition, as well as experiencing exciting workshops from visiting community musicians.

Students in all year groups have the opportunity to take part in the annual House Musical competition in which each of the four houses is given a topic on which create a 10-minute musical e.g. Roald Dahl books – James and the Giant Peach/ The Twits/ Witches/ Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This is a student-led project and must include both instrumental and vocal performances throughout.

Every two years, The King's School undertakes a large-scale musical production. The Addam's Family was the last school production in 2022, which involved a small number of students in the 'pit orchestra' working alongside industry professional musicians in an apprentice-type role, as well as a student cast experiencing what life as a singer/actor is like in the musical theatre sector. This performance was very well received over three evenings of performances. October 2023 saw a celebration of 70s music and culture in our 70s Musical Showcase, involving a large percentage of the student population singing and performing in bands to an audience of parents and friends across two evenings. Rehearsals for October 2024's 'Joseph', a predominantly 'sung' musical, have begun and include a cast of over fifty students and eight instrumentalists.

In addition to these co-curricular clubs and projects, students can also make progress in music outside of lesson times. Students have the ability to book Music practice rooms at break and lunch times for individual practice as well as student-led ensemble rehearsals.

Students are able to hire instruments from Devon Music Education Hub and some students currently have guitars and keyboards on loan from the school itself. Several students attend the local Rock Project in nearby Exeter as well as taking part in regional vocal and instrumental ensembles such as the Devon Youth Choir, Devon Youth Wind Orchestra, Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra, Sidmouth Town Band, Ottery St Mary Silver Band and Ottery St Mary Brass Class. Students are also visited by and encouraged to join Devon Youth Folk Ensemble run by Wren Music.

## 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.

Musical experiences taken advantage of by our students in 2023-24 include an array of trips and visits detailed below, as well as several performance opportunities throughout the year. Wherever possible

this year, funding has been sought to cover the cost of travel expenses and several of the musical concerts and shows have had the cost covered by either an outside sponsor, or the Devon Music Education Hub.

Students are encouraged to perform regularly outside of lessons at numerous events including in termly assemblies, for lower-school students as an 'extra performance' in their half-termly curriculum concerts to their class, the Open Evening for prospective primary school students, the 70s Musical Theatre showcase, the Christmas Carol Service, House Musical, Battle of the Bands, Pride Open Mic and the Summer Music Celebration Evening. Students are also encouraged to perform in the local community and have recently performed at the Devon County Show and Sidmouth Sea Fest. Students also perform at local open mic nights and a number of singers are going on tour to Paris with the Devon Youth Choir at the end of the summer term. The Devon Music Education Hub has also organised a regional Battle of the Bands and King's students enjoyed performing in the East Devon Finals at Cranbrook Education Campus against other schools in the summer term.

In addition to these performance opportunities, our new bell system means that there is an opportunity for students to record their performances ahead of time and play these to the entire school at the end of the school term. This has been particularly popular post-Covid, as students are able to re-record their performance until they are pleased with the outcome and can remain anonymous if they are particularly nervous about the recording being heard by their peers. Most students opt to have their names in the daily bulletin to let students and staff know the name of the piece and the performer.

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Music students took part in an exciting Folk Music Session delivered by Wren Music in September and KS3 students were able to explore these instruments with a professional musician after the workshop.

In partnership with the Piano Man project, six pianists from Years 8, 9 and 10 took part in an online masterclass delivered by world-renowned concert pianist Richard. This was a fantastic opportunity to prepare suitable repertoire and receive expert advice from an industry professional. This opportunity was delivered free of charge to students due to kind sponsorship from Sir and Lady Harvey McGrath.

The King's School Orchestra took thirteen students to a Jazz Workshop with Wells Cathedral School at St. Peter's in Exeter. This was a fantastic opportunity for students in Years 7-10 to sight-read, learn by ear and improvise with musicians from another school. In the summer term, the orchestra performed a range of pieces to their parents in a short performance after school.

A small group of guitarists from all year groups are anticipating an upcoming workshop with the Wales Guitar Duo in partnership with the Budleigh Music Festival in the summer term. The workshop is prefaced by a concert from these Royal College of Music and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama graduates. The tickets to this event are offered to our students free of charge as the concert has been kindly sponsored by Robin Arnold.

Elfyn Jones, a local composer and community musician, worked with a group of fifteen Year 9 students to create a composition inspired by the song *Happy* by Pharrell Williams. This was a hugely successful project and allowed students complete creativity in a supportive and inclusive environment from a musical starting point. This project will culminate in a performance to parents as part of the Music Celebration Evening at the end of the summer term.

The Devon Music Education Hub organised a fantastic concert led by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for KS4 students in which Patrick Bailey traced the development of music from the Baroque period to present day through a series of live performances of GCSE set works. Fifty students from KS3 and KS4 who have shown an interest in orchestral music or that play an orchestral instrument attended from The King's School. The cost of this was completely subsidised for students.

As part of the school's Project Week offer to students, there is an annual Theatre trip to London in which KS3 students spend four days in the capital city, enjoying three live theatre musicals, exploring careers

in the musical theatre industry, taking tours of famous theatres and participating in a workshop led by multiple West End professionals.

## In the future

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

We are keen to reach a 'Platinum' Music Development status over the next few years (currently 'Gold'). Several of our planned aims were well-established pre-Covid and now require a fresh focus. We intend to reach 'Platinum' status by

- encouraging students to enter National competitions and also to establish closer links with external partners in the music industry to promote awareness of creative pathways and volunteering opportunities.
- establishing a clear pathway of progress through our co-curricular ensemble activities and to re-establish a pathway of progress through our Music Leaders program including qualified students running clubs and activities for younger students.
- re-establishing termly Open Mic Sessions and assembly performances. Whilst all students perform to their own class approximately every half-term as part of their curricular work, we are hoping to further engage parents and an audience of students outside of curricular lessons in performances. These performances could include students studying a musical instrument or voice as part of their co-curricular studies as well as highlighting excellent curricular work to parents.
- redesigning the curriculum to closer align with the Model Music Curriculum, enabling students to study fewer topics in more depth, as well as to include more singing in the classroom in order to foster a love for singing in the young people we teach. In the year 2025-26 we intend on introducing singing assemblies for whole year groups to further students' ability to sing in a large group.
- allowing for even more practical music-making at KS4 in order to embed key concepts in an enjoyable and engaging way. We recognise that GCSE students learn theoretical concepts best through practical music-making and, with the introduction of some of these concepts earlier in their school careers for KS3 students, this should allow for more practical time at GCSE.

The King's School is also committed to continue to deliver the seven features of high-quality Music provision as set out by the Government as part of the National Plan for Music Education. Students will continue to receive at least one hour each week of the school year for Year 7 and 8 students as well as the Year 9 provision of two hours a week for six to seven weeks per year in addition to the optional weekly co-curricular Year 9 Music Extension Club.

We will continue to offer access to co-curricular instrumental and vocal lessons across our current range of instruments/voices as well as accessing support from Devon Music Education Hub (DMEH) for students wishing to study an instrument that we do not yet teach.

We will continue to offer at least two vocal ensemble opportunities per year, a school orchestra and other instrumental ensemble groups in response to the needs and wishes of students. Our practice rooms will be available at break times and lunch times for students to continue to book. Our current termly performances of the Carol Service, House Musical and Music Celebration Evening will continue to play a vital part in the school calendar at the end of each term and we intend to work closely with the DMEH to offer live performances to students.

## Further information

For further information, please refer to our schemes of learning on the [Expressive Arts section](#) of The King's School website. We are going through a period of transition with our schemes of learning currently to ensure that learning aligns with the Model Music Curriculum.

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.

The Devon Music Education Hub also has a local plan for Music education in place from September 2024 that can be found on their [website](#).

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.