

Music Development Plan Summary: Cox Green School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 onwards
Date this summary was published	January 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr Stuart Forster
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for Music (if different)	Miss Nadiah Killick
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Various independent instrumental teachers

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.

As a school we aim to deliver a broad and challenging curriculum from key stages 3 to 5. We give our students the opportunity to engage in music from all types of genres and explore musical styles they may not have come across before.

Key Stage 3

Key stage 3 students receive 1 hour of formal tuition every week.

Our curriculum map cover a wide range of different topics and an outline can be seen on the school website here: [music curriculum plan](#) This curriculum plan is ever evolving and does change with different cohorts of students to adapt to their needs and abilities.

An example of this - the Year 8 topic will have a focus on keyboard skills during Term 3 to ensure all students have an embedded understanding of the instrument to support composition and more complex performance later in the curriculum.

The genre of rap is being used to discuss “music in politics” in Term 3 for Year 9, as it was decided this would support engagement within the year group allowing them to explore the importance of music within social and political environments.

Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4, students receive 6 hours of formal tuition every two weeks again we offer a range of support clinics and extra-curricular opportunities to develop these students into well-rounded musicians. They work towards the Eduqas GCSE qualification which involves performance, analysis and composition. The foundations of each of these skills are provided during KS3 so that a transitional period is limited.

Key Stage 5

Key Stage 5 students receive 8 hours of formal lessons over a two-week period. As with KS4, we offer a range of additional musical opportunities to enhance their learning. These are set to include live music opportunities and careers advice and guidance, with the support of the school careers advice service and visitors from the music industry.

Most of these opportunities will be available to other year groups including KS4 and some KS3.

The Department Facilities

The department has a plethora of instruments available for students to use during instrumental lessons, class learning, break times, and before and after school. Instruments include upright pianos in most individual practise rooms, drum kits, acoustic and electric guitars, and a range of woodwind, brass and string instruments.

The department has three large teaching rooms, with two being used as formal teaching rooms and the third being used as a rehearsal space for extra-curricular opportunities.

There are 8 individual practise rooms which are open to students during break time and can be used as ‘break out’ rooms during formal lesson time. These can be used by Sixth Form during private study to practise their instrument.

Instrumental Lessons

We have a variety of instrumental teachers who teach small groups or 1:1 lessons, with our PP GCSE students receiving 50% of their fees paid for.

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.

Instrumental Lessons

We have a variety of instrumental teachers who teach small groups or 1:1 lessons to students, with our PP GCSE students receiving 50% of their fees paid for.

These teachers are highly skilled and specialists in their chosen instrument. We work with self-employed teachers as well as the local music hub, Berkshire Music Trust who support the music-making of the school. Our specialist teachers also support with performance examination at GCSE, A-level, Trinity and ABRSM graded exams as well as supporting with additional clubs.

We have a range of instruments of all types that students can loan if they would like to try an instrument before they commit to purchasing one.

Clubs

We offer a range of music clubs which take place during form periods and are free, to ensure inclusivity and to prevent any barriers for our students.

Our clubs include:

Junior Rockband – Years 7-9

Senior Rockband – Years 9-13

Whole School Choir – Year 7-13

Senior Choir – Year 10-13

Composition Club – Year 9-13

Junior Composition Club – Year 7-8

Beginner Band – Year 7-9 (mix of brass and woodwind instruments)

Students are encouraged to take part in clubs outside of school and we suggest the music hub Saturday music centre is a place to allow students to meet other musicians of their age.

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.

Over the next year we have an extensive range of opportunities for our students to take part in.

We have regular performances throughout the year which include:

- The Winter Concert;
- Open Mic Night;
- Grease - The Musical; and
- Our Battle of the Bands event.

These give students to perform on a larger scale and to showcase their talents to both the school community and the extended community of our local area.

We also have music trips to see live musicians perform in venues such as the Barbican Centre, and musical theatre trips in collaboration with our Performing Arts team. In the future, we will work with visiting musicians who will give additional opportunities for our students. An example of this is the Army band who will be visiting us in April to work and perform with our students.

We aim to improve our offering of musical trips and workshops in the next academic year, so every student can experience professional performances.

In the Future

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

We aim to grow as a department and have the following aspirations:

- Increase uptake for KS3 and KS4;
- Get more boys singing;
- Continue to develop a broad and challenging curriculum;
- Give more of our students the opportunity to see live music both in school and in larger venues;
- Increase numbers attending our extra-curricular offering.