

Mercia School Music Development Plan



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Ruth Jarvis
Name of local music hub	Sheffield Music Hub

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Part A: Curriculum Music

This section covers the music provision in lesson time at Mercia School. There are links provided to relevant further school-wide policies and provisions.

KS3

The music curriculum is ambitious for all pupils. It covers a wide range of topics, broadly designed to encompass performance, composition and appraising music from different historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, preparing pupils for successful lives at the end of Year 9, whether or not they decide to continue in their formal studies in music into GCSE, A-Level and Higher Education.

Students at Key Stage 3 receive one hour a week of curriculum timetabled music lessons. This is then further supplemented by Enrichment options, detailed below in Part B. The topics, tacit, declarative and procedural knowledge are all indicated below.

Throughout curriculum time students learn to sing, play keyboard and a wide variety of percussion instruments. There is a focus on developing understanding of a wide range of musical terminology, and the application of this declarative knowledge through listening questions and studying of music notation.

Students throughout the curriculum time have equal opportunities to develop their procedural knowledge of music through performance, composition, improvisation and listening regardless of musical background. There is a focus on the use of correct techniques, developing confidence reading from notation, and developing ability to perform and compose rhythms and pitches using correct musical conventions.

All areas of the curriculum are informed by:

- National Curriculum: (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c869440f0b62aff6c2499/SECONDARY_national_curriculum_-_Music.pdf)
- Model Music Curriculum: (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6061f6bbe90e072d929ec8c4/Model_Music_Curriculum_Key_Stage_3.pdf)
- Research review series: (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-music/research-review-series-music>)
- National Plan for Music Education: (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62bc1242d3bf7f292040d364/The_Power_of_Music_to_Change_Lives.pdf)

	ASSESSMENT CYCLE 1		ASSESSMENT CYCLE 2		ASSESSMENT CYCLE 3
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
Year 7	<p><u>Musical Elements</u> Vocal Performance (P) Body Percussion performance (P) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P)</p>	<p><u>Notation</u> Keyboard Performance (P) Notation Terminology and reading (D) Variety of performance pieces (P + T) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P)</p>	<p><u>Instruments of the Orchestra and Fanfares</u> Instruments of the Orchestra (P+D) Fanfare Composition (P) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P)</p>	<p><u>Music and Mood</u> Scales and Keyboard Performance (D+P) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Work: <i>Mahler Symphony No 1</i> (T)</p>	<p><u>Programme Music</u> Musical Periods (P) Programme Music Composition (P) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Works: <i>Vivaldi Four Seasons, Haydn Surprise Symphony, Saint Saens Carnival of the Animals, Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition</i> (P + T)</p>
Year 8	<p><u>Celtic Music</u> Keyboard Performance (P) Vocal Performance (P) Understanding of Chords and Melody (P+D) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Work: <i>Drunken Sailor</i> (T)</p>	<p><u>Music from Asia</u> Keyboard Performance (P) Ensemble Tuned Percussion Performance and Improvisation (P) Gamelan, Indian Classical Music, Qawwali (T). Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Performers: <i>Ravi Shankar, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan</i> (T)</p>	<p><u>Blues</u> Keyboard Performance and Improvisation (P) Understanding of Chords and Melody (P+D) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Performers: <i>Ella Fitzgerald, Muddy Waters</i> (T)</p>	<p><u>Music from Latin America</u> Ensemble Percussion Performance (P) Keyboard Performance and Improvisation (P) Understanding of Rhythmic pattern (P+D) Understanding of Samba and Cuban Music(D) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Work: <i>Habanera from Carmen</i></p>	<p><u>Music from Africa</u> Ensemble Djembe Percussion Performance (P) Vocal Performance (P) Understanding of Rhythmic pattern (P+D) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Work <i>Mambo Sawa Sawa Mamady Keita</i></p>

	ASSESSMENT CYCLE 1		ASSESSMENT CYCLE 2		ASSESSMENT CYCLE 3
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
Year 9	<p><u>Minimalism</u> Keyboard Composition (P) Chords and Melody (P+D) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Work: <i>Steve Reich Nagoya Marimbas (T)</i></p>	<p><u>Jazz</u> Keyboard Performance and Improvisation (P) Chords and Melody (P+D) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Performers: <i>Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Miles Davis, Glen Millar, (T)</i></p>	<p><u>Film Music</u> Keyboard Composition (P) Leitmotif and Advanced Musical Elements (D) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Work: <i>Pirates of the Caribbean, Star Wars</i></p>	<p><u>Popular Music</u> Keyboard Composition (P) Vocal Performance (P) Chords and Melody (P+D) Technology (P) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Work: <i>Shut up and Dance with me</i></p>	<p><u>EDM</u> Keyboard Performance (P) Keyboard Composition (P) Chords and Melody (P+D) Technology (P) Key terminology (D) Key Listening (T+P) Set Work: <i>Why Does my Heart Feel So Bad</i></p>

Qualifications

Throughout the academic year those students that receive instrumental lessons are able to study and achieve graded music exams from a variety of exam boards including (but not limited to) ABRSM, Trinity and Rock School. Support is also provided for Music Theory examinations. All pupils that pass an exam receive a Mercia **Music Badge**.

As well as this for a lot of pupils their study of music contributes to their Duke of Edinburgh qualification

KS4

At KS4 Music students follow the Edexcel GCSE Specification. The programme of study for Year 10 and 11 are detailed below and informed by the examination specification:

(https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Music/2016/specification/Pearson_Edexcel_GCSE_9_to_1_in_Music_Specification_issue4.pdf)

GCSE programme of study Edexcel						
	Term 1		Term 2			Term 3
10						
PERF	Marking performances Piece choice Performance rehearsal	Solo performance Reflection, evaluation	Reflection, evaluation, piece choice	Solo performance	Principles of ensemble performance Ensemble rehearsal	ensemble monitoring Mock ensemble performance
COMP	Brief 1: Dance	Submission of Brief 1	Brief 2: Minimalism	Submission of Brief 2	Brief 3: Brief Composition	Submission of Brief 3
SET WORKS	Introduction to GCSE, Listening skills Purcell	Queen	Queen	Williams	Spalding	Afro-Celt Mock Exam

GCSE programme of study Edexcel						
	Term 1		Term 2		Term 3	
11						
PERF	Solo/ensemble rehearsal	Solo/ensemble rehearsal Mock solo and ensemble performance	Solo/ensemble rehearsal	Solo/ensemble monitoring Solo and Ensemble performance Recording	Revision and exam technique	
COMP	Edexcel Brief Composition	Brief Composition	Final drafts	Submission of Compositions	Revision and exam technique	
SET WORKS	Afro Celt	Bach Mock Exam	Beethoven	Wicked	Wider listening Revision and exam technique	Final Exam

SEND Provision

The details of the schools provision for SEND is detailed here: <https://www.merciaschool.com/page/?title=SEND&pid=58>

In Music lessons support and increased access is supported through:

Part B: Co-Curriculum Music

This section covers the music provision outside of the classroom, the events and wider opportunities to engage with music.

Enrichment

Enrichment is a core part of the provision for Mercia pupils. The enrichment curriculum at Mercia School promotes pleasure and passion in learning outside the classroom. All pupils take part and enjoy access to a wide range of new experiences and subjects. The enrichment curriculum is available Monday - Thursday and it commences at 4pm until the end of the school day at 5pm.

Music enrichments are a key part of the Enrichment programme. Topics covered are often linked to those being taught in curriculum lesson time.

Below are examples of enrichments that have been offered in the past and are being planned for the future:

Year 7	
Enrichment	Content
Choir	Throw Catch, Lean on Me, Nanuma, Consider Yourself
Keyboard	Ode to Joy, ABRSM Grade books
Body Percussion	Rock Trap, Body Beats
Orchestral Instruments *	Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra
Musical Theatre	Consider Yourself, We Go Together

Year 8	
Enrichment	Content
Keyboard	Drowsy Maggie, From the New Country, The Blackthorn Stick, The Irish Washerwoman
Ukelele	Three Little Birds You Can Count on Me, Somewhere Over the Rainbow
Bollywood *	Jai Ho

Dhol Drumming *	Outside organisation, Drummers Reel
Reggae	Three Little Birds, Jammin', One Love
Samba	Various Samba Patterns from
Advanced Djembe	Various patterns - https://djembefoley.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/african-rhythms.pdf

Year 9	
Enrichment	Content
Sibelius *	Learning how to use the Sibelius music programme by arranging One Love, Star Wars theme or I Want to Break Free
Jazz Documentary *	Looking at performances of different Jazz musicians and how they have shaped the musical style
Film Music *	Looking at John Williams, Hans Zimmer and Rache Portman
Music through the Decades	Looking at how popular music has developed from 1960s to 2000s
Band	Ensemble Band Performance of Shotgun and 7 Nation Army
EDM – Music Technology	Learning how to use DAW software
EDM – Djing*	Learning about EDM through DJ Decks

Other music enrichments taught by staff members outside of the classroom include:

Year 9	
Enrichment	Content
The Physics of Music	Looking at the Science behind Music
People who changed Music	Looking at key Musicians such as Freddie Mercury, David Bowie, The Beatles, Miriam Makeba etc

Instrumental lessons - Visiting Music Teachers

There is a team of 11 visiting music teachers that attend Mercia during the week. Instrumental lessons are either 20 or 30 mins long and are timetabled on a rotation throughout the half term.

In Year 7 Students have an Instrumental Lessons assembly where the process of signing up for lessons is explained as well as all instruments available to learn at Mercia are demonstrated. The aim is for more than 14% of the year group to uptake lessons.

Instruments available for individual tuition at Mercia are:

- Piano
- Vocals
- Drum Kit
- Percussion
- Guitar/Electric Guitar/ Bass Guitar/ Double Bass
- Brass (Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone)
- Flute
- Bassoon
- Carinet/Saxophone
- Violin
- Cello

Charges

Charges are around £12- 14 for a 20 minute lesson and between £17-20 for a 30 minute lesson

Support is available for Low Income families and those that are eligible for pupil premium. This is provided by Sheffield Music Hub for students of accredited teachers and Hub Leaders, and is a 50% bursary. Most of Mercia's Instrumental teachers are either a Hub Leader or are accredited.

Similarly 50% bursaries are available for students with SEND, while 100% bursaries are available for students with LAC status.

Further information about bursaries offered by the Sheffield Music Hub can be found here: <https://www.sheffieldmusic hub.org/pages/bursaries-for-music-service-lessons>

Graded Exams

Where pupils wish to, our teachers support our pupils to work towards and sit graded instrumental examinations from a variety of boards, including ABRSM, Trinity and Rock School, depending on the instrument. Support is also provided for Music Theory examinations. All pupils that pass an exam receive a Mercia **Music Badge**

Extra-Curricular

There is a wide provision of Extra-Curricular Music at Mercia, which is available and open to all pupils regardless of musical experience. Rehearsal times and spaces are clearly communicated to all pupils throughout the year in Mastery Time and in curriculum lessons. Teachers identify and encourage pupils to attend who would not normally consider music groups as an option

Time/Day		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL 7:45-8:15am			Choir A14	Orchestra A14		
LUNTIME	1 st Sitting 12:15				Year 8 & 9 Band	Year 8 Drumming
	2 nd Sitting 12:45		Year 7 Keyboard club	Year 10 Band		

Practice Rooms, Rehearsal and Composition Spaces

There are a number of Practise Rooms that are available to students, if they are not being used by visiting music teachers. GCSE pupils in particular are encouraged to use these spaces before school and during lunch time. B13 the Composition room is open before school and at lunch time for pupils to work on their coursework

Part C: Musical Experiences

This section covers the other opportunities pupils at Mercia have to engage with music. It includes performance opportunities, trips etc

Concerts

There are a number of opportunities for pupils to perform or have their compositions performed. There are three main performance events throughout the year (details below).

Concert	Dates	Format
Tea Time Soloists Platform	TBC	House Music Championing the amazing musicians we have in the school, this concert will be formed of solo or duet performances. A visiting Adjudicator will award prizes for Winner and Highly Commended in different categories with house points available to be one
School Show/ Scenes from the Shows	TBC	Our School show will bring together the musical, dancing and acting talents of our pupils in a fantastical bonanza
Music Week Big Concert	TBC	Our groups including Orchestra and Choir will showcase their amazing work throughout the year, bringing to a close Mercia's celebration of Music Week

Other performance opportunities that are available to pupils include at open days and evenings, assemblies and at Year 7 Showcase at the end of the Winter term. Students will be given this opportunity, selected by staff in conjunction with visiting music teachers

All pupils that perform in any event receive a Mercia **Music Badge** for the year

Music Week

Themes of the week shape learning that takes place during Mastery Time and discussions at lunch tables during Lunchtime. Music Week is an opportunity for all at Mercia to celebrate what Music brings to everyone's lives, the learning that it offers and the huge benefits that learning and engaging in Music can bring. During the week every student at Mercia (whether they have selected to study it as a subject or not) is involved in music making, watching performances or taking part in workshops.

During Music week a variety of professional musicians, important industry practitioners and experienced specialists and educators visit the school to deliver a programme of workshops to all students. All KS3 pupils are involved in workshops that are linked to learning in the curriculum for that year group.

Shows

Mercia School Shows are a fantastic display of the creative talents of our students. The School Show this Year will be The Wizard of Oz. Auditions will take place in early September with rehearsals timetabled throughout the week. The Show itself will be in early February.

The School is supported in this by a number of outside organisations including (but not limited to):

- Easy Street Theatre Company - <https://easystreettheatre.org/>
- Stagecoach Sheffield - <https://www.stagecoach.co.uk/sheffield>
- Congress Youth Theatre - <https://congresstheatre.co.uk/youth-theatre/>
- Stage Instruct

Trips

There have been a number of trips that run throughout the year that support the musical learning of all pupils.

See a Show:- In early January time pupils involved in the school show and ensembles will have the opportunity to see a show in Sheffield, motivating them further in the run up to the School Show

University of Sheffield Music Department: - trips for GCSE pupils to visit the Music Department, which is a Steinway Department and learn about the facilities available at the department and the opportunities for music students

Tours

A continuous project the music department is working towards running its first ever music tour, allowing our students to showcase their talents further afield

Part D: Into the Future

This section covers the plans the department has for further development of the provision of Music at Mercia

Curriculum

The music department undertakes constant reviews of topics taught so that learning is always of a high standard and adaptations are made in a quick and meaningful manner.

One key area of the curriculum to develop is the provision and learning around Qawwali, Bhangra and Bollywood music, reflecting the demographic of the school. While this will be achieved through the development of the curriculum, it will be supported by:

- Development of a Bhangra/Dhol Drumming enrichment to be taught to Year 8, in conjunction with outside organisations
- Introduction of Tabla, Sitar and Djembe teachers so that world music instruments can be taught in school alongside western instruments, helping make music more accessible

Enrichment

Continuous development of enrichment activities is vital, with the aim to include a wider variety of teachers to share their own passion and understanding and experiences of the subject.

Developing more chances to experience music technology within KS3, including experience using a variety of music softwares.

Extra-curricular and Competition Opportunities

Making sure that rehearsals run consistently throughout the year to develop these groups into outstanding performance ensembles is essential for the success of the department. The aim here is to be ready to perform at national competitions and events such as UK Schools Music Festival and Music for Youth. This is also a step to the department running its first tour.

As with performance there are a number of key composition competitions that we aim to enter students for including the BBC Young Composer of the Year that runs every two years. More locally there is the Young Composer Competition run by the Sheffield Philharmonic Choir.

Part E: Further Information

Important links. Below are important links to organisations that support the music provision at Mercia School:

- Sheffield Music Hub - <https://www.sheffieldmusicclub.org/>
- Music in the Round - <https://musicintheround.co.uk/>
- Steve Rivers and Unbeatable Energy - <https://www.unbeatable-energy.co.uk/about>