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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



SCHOOL MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SCHOOL NAME: The Royal School Wolverhampton

COMPLETED BY: Lucy Simmonds

UPDATED: SEPT 2024

Focus area 1: Curriculum

	Not yet in place	Emerging	Established	Embedded
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Curriculum	<p>Music is a timetabled subject, with schemes of work and some assessment in place. All students are able to access this curriculum in all year groups.</p>	<p>The music curriculum is at least as ambitious as the national curriculum. Curriculum sequencing is clear.</p> <p>Good progress is demonstrated by secure and incremental learning of the technical, constructive, and expressive aspects of music, developing musical understanding.</p> <p>Pupils with additional needs are able to participate and progress well (supported by technology, tools and adapted instruments).</p> <p>Space and resources allow breadth of curriculum for all students, including music technology.</p>	<p>Seeking to address social disadvantage by addressing gaps in knowledge, skills and experiences (i.e. concerts, live events).</p>
	<p>Our Curriculum best fit is: Established (Senior), Emerging (Primary)</p>		

Further Evaluation Detail	<p>The curriculum is clearly organised into strands which develop, particularly throughout Primary and KS3 before reaching culmination at GCSE and BTEC level. Students focus their learning around the following key strands: Singing, Ensemble, Melody, Rhythm and Chords. Each strand is revisited throughout the child’s musical development to ensure that they establish strong foundations for more detailed understanding and development in later years. The curriculum in primary and key stage 3 meets the national curriculum.</p> <p>Our GCSE course is well established with good numbers of pupils in recent years. Similarly, our newly established Level 3 BTEC course shows a desire to further the study and development of our students at a deeper level. Many learners from this course go on to study music or related subjects at university.</p> <p>In the primary school, music lessons are taught by a specialist teacher (year 5 and 6 plus a rotation of years 1,2 and 4), supplemented by classroom teachers (1,2 and 4 rotation) and by the Wolverhampton Music Service (delivering WCIT in year 3 and SEND provision for targeted pupils in the primary school). The primary school is resourced with shared percussion, ukuleles and glockenspiels so that students can explore a range of instruments and can easily link in with our strands of rhythm, melody and chords alongside singing and ensemble work. There are also two music specific cornerstones units delivered in year 2 and year 4 which further add to our student’s varied development.</p> <p>In the senior school we have a keyboard room with access for all children (though this resource does need updating in the near future) and also mac computers which allow our students to develop their composition and music technology skills. We also have a class set of Djembes and ukuleles to further support learning alongside several other department instruments including a drum kit and guitars.</p> <p>Pupils are also able to access a wide range of musical opportunities to develop their wider experience of music. We offer a yearly arts residential which allows a large group of students access to a week of uninterrupted arts provision in a residential setting. Similarly, all students in the senior school participate in our House Music competition, with each house performing a group song alongside multiple optional solo/ensemble entries. We also have a wide range of co-curricular activities including a popular school production, choir, orchestra and chamber choir plus a lunchtime practice club, all of which are open to all students. We put on a variety of concerts and trips throughout the year. Similarly, in the primary school there are opportunities for performance in our Performing Arts Showcases and a strong choir which puts of multiple performances each year. We also offer a range of musical trips in the primary school including to the Halls to watch a live orchestra perform and to take part in the Big Sing.</p>

Area	Set your school some actions here	Review date	Status
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Curriculum	1	Further develop the primary school curriculum by embedding schemes of learning for non-specialist teachers.	Jan 2025	In progress
	2	Further develop singing within our school, particularly in primary, as a main musical resource for learning and development. Also in secondary to further develop the senior.	Jan 2025	In progress
	3	Further develop the use of technology as a resource in the primary school.	Sept 2025	In progress
	4	Further embed our new GCSE curriculum (Sept 2024 – Eduqas year 10)	July 2025	In progress
	5	Continue to work to improve outcomes at GCSE and BTEC level.	August 2025	In progress

Focus area 2: Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and Ensembles

	Not yet in place	Emerging	Established	Embedded
Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and Ensembles			<p>Singing and vocal work is embedded into the life of the school and into every child's experience, drawing on a wide range of high-quality, age-appropriate repertoire and developing musicianship. All staff in the school are able to support singing.</p> <p>Music performance is a prominent component of school life from an early age; music is performed in assemblies and events such as sports day and open evenings alongside in-school events.</p> <p>The overall provision is diverse, valuing all musical styles, genres and traditions equally; this is reflected in the clubs and enrichment programme and drawing on the skills, talents and interests of staff and local stakeholders through specialist tuition. A large proportion of students are involved.</p>	<p>The school tracks and monitors engagement in enrichment, ensuring that there is a large proportion of students able to engage in music in and out of school. Provision is targeted, demonstrating wider impact.</p> <p>Co-curricular music is supported by the school and time is allocated for staff to run these groups successfully</p> <p>Students are able to take leadership roles in musical opportunities.</p>
	Our Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and Ensembles best fit is: Established/Embedded			

Singing is included throughout the school – from primary to senior school. In primary school, students sing in assemblies, singing practice, school choir and in class. Students in each year group have the opportunity to put on a performance or service which includes a large number of sung numbers that students practice with their class teachers and perform in classes and within year groups. This is echoed in the senior school where students sing a weekly hymn in assembly, sing within curriculum music lessons, choir and chamber choir practices, school production, within their own bands, at karaoke club and also in plentiful solo and ensemble performance opportunities throughout the year. There is a solo singing category in our annual House Music competition. Singing is embedded into the fabric of the school.

As a school, we have over 300 pupils from year 2 to year 13 signed up for 1:1 or small group instrumental and vocal teaching provided by the Wolverhampton Music Service and also a pair of private peripatetic teachers. We are the largest provider of this service in the city of Wolverhampton. We are also pleased to be able to offer subsidy of these lesson costs to all students so that music is accessible to all. In particular we are able to offer a greater subsidy to Pupil Premium and Looked After Children so that barriers are removed in allowing all students to access the musical provision that they are passionate about. We regularly celebrate the successes of our pupils in this area, running a successful Practice Praise scheme where students earn blazer badges by practicing and completing practice sheets. We also include student exam success announcements in our termly Music Department Newsletter.

Music is also a prominent component of the school extracurricular programme. In the senior school we offer choir, orchestra, chamber choir, drum + guitar group, school production and rapping and freestyle as staff lead groups. Similarly, the music department opens on a daily basis for students to be involved in personal practice and developing both their solo and ensemble skills in a self-directed capacity. In the primary school we offer a choir which is well attended and often offer other clubs depending on staff availability and interest. The music that our students choose to perform in these groups and in self-directed sessions encompasses a wide range of traditions, from large dhol groups, musical theatre performances, rock and pop groups and classical groups. We also run a music prefect group in our senior school where students help to run events and steer the direction of the department.

There are plentiful opportunities for students to perform. Within the primary school we have two Performing Arts Showcase concerts in February where students are put forward to perform solos and duets by their instrumental and vocal teachers. Alongside this each year group also hosts a service or performance where all students are involved in sung performances on an annual basis. There is also a house competition for music. We also include performances at our annual prize giving service. In the senior school we host an annual House Music competition for all students, an annual three night run of our school production in July and also regular other concert performances. We have a Winter Concert and Summer Concert and Sixth Form Showcase of purely musical acts and also run a series of services including a Harvest Service, Founders Day Service, Year 13 Leavers Service, Year 11 Leavers Service and Senior Prize Giving. We also have students involved in performances on special events such as open days and on culture day.

Area	Set your school some actions here		Review date	Progress
Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and Ensembles	1	Develop a school singing strategy to solidify our aims and further support non-specialist teachers in the delivery of our primary school curriculum.	Jan 2025	In progress
	2	Investigate opportunities for taking pupils to a national or large-scale performance event such as the Big Sing	July 2025	No
	3	Establish a means of providing an instrumental ensemble in the primary school for pupils to be involved in, perhaps with an external provider.	July 2025	No
	4	Involve pupils in the Orchestras For All scheme.	July 2025	In progress
	5			Click for option

Focus area 3: Musical Events and Opportunities

	Not yet in place	Emerging	Established	Embedded
Musical Events and Opportunities			<p>The school makes the most of a wide range of opportunities from the hub, working with and supporting the Wolverhampton Music Hub.</p> <p>Meaningful partnerships are established with the community and a large proportion of students engage with this, understanding that there are clear civic and moral benefits to doing so (link to personal development and character education).</p> <p>The school has links to the wider music eco-system and actively encourages students to join the Wolverhampton Music Service Ensembles. Students benefit from interactions with those working in the profession.</p>	<p>Parents/carers and the wider community are actively involved in school music making</p> <p>The school has established connections with the next stages of musical education and the music service so that progression routes can be signposted meaningfully</p>
	Our Musical Events and Opportunities best fit is: Established			
Further Evaluation Detail	<p>We regularly ensure that our students have access to a range of extra musical opportunities and events.</p> <p>Within the community we have recently established a tradition of Christmas Care Home visits, once with the chamber choir and in 2024 with the primary choir. Our primary choir are also involved in the St Barts singing day, a local church, and we also attend the WMS Big Sing with our year 5 pupils. In the senior school our performances, particularly our school production are advertised outside of school and our services draw in attendees from the wider school community including Old Royals (Ex pupils). We also perform an annual concert at the Wolverhampton Art Gallery, facilitated by the Wolverhampton Music Service.</p> <p>We signpost many of our students to the Wolverhampton Music Service ensembles and are pleased that many students choose to attend these groups and perform in regular concerts. Where possible, staff aim to support students in these performances and attend events when they can. Similarly, staff are involved in watching performances that students are involved in in the musical theatre community, regularly attending events at the Grand theatre and performances put on by local theatre groups in nearby venues.</p> <p>As a school community we facilitate older students in giving musical experiences to younger pupils, running a Give Back scheme in the Sixth Form where students can choose to support in lessons. Similarly, we often put on performances for primary year groups, such as our year 4 Instruments of the Orchestra performance and our year 2 My First Concert experience, both of which are now annual events.</p> <p>Finally, we often run workshops and trips to engage students with local music making opportunities and allow them further musical experience. In the primary school we regularly host a drumming workshop and also take our year 4 pupils to experience the Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra performances. In the senior school we regularly host workshops from BIMM Birmingham, a local university, alongside regular trips to professional performances in Wolverhampton, Birmingham and London and also backstage at the Grand Theatre.</p> <p>Pupil and parent voice are regularly taken into account. We run a Music Prefect Scheme in the senior school to allow pupils a level of leadership and ownership of the department. We also regularly keep in touch with parents, lead by our dedicated Performing Arts Administrator, and deliver a termly Music Newsletter so that all parents are kept abreast of our latest developments and achievements.</p>			

Area	Set your school some actions here		Review date	Progress
Musical Events and Opportunities	1	Develop a guest speaker programme in the Sixth Form where students speak to or visit working musicians.		In progress
	2			Click for option
	3			Click for option
	4			Click for option
	5			Click for option