

Music development plan summary: Arena Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	06/09/2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	15/07/2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss Lucy Freeman (Head of Visual Arts) Miss Darshae Mckenzie (Music Teacher)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Services for Education
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Hippodrome Education Network

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.

<p>Subject Vision:</p> <p>Year 1 priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of peripatetic Music lessons• Development of Music Ambassador team• Embed culture of performance through lessons and increased opportunities to perform (ongoing)• Strengthen current ensembles (ongoing) <p>Year 2 priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure all students experience live music as part of the curriculum/co curriculum.

- **Raise awareness of Music careers to broaden student understanding of Music industry**
- **To increase uptake at KS4 to Music GCSE courses and of students working towards Music grades.**

Year 3 priority:

- **To submit a successful bid for the renovation of the Music room and an additional practice space.**
- **To work with the academy trust to provide one lesson per week of Music throughout the school year for KS3 students.**

How do we support SEND and disabled students:

We ensure that all pupils have equal access to and can enjoy the Music curriculum through quality first teaching which identifies student needs and abilities and provides scaffolded learning towards independence. Teachers provide aspirational models to inspire and provide clear expectations of lesson outcomes and skills. Content is chunked and 1:1 guidance provided to support students who are lower ability or SEND. If students are struggling with motor skills the SEND department can offer 1:1 school-based intervention sessions to try and develop these skills to allow the student to access their desired instrument. We offer a wide range of instruments to suit all interests and abilities from keyboards to djembes to vocal performance and ensemble work allows for a range of abilities to contribute to a collaborative piece. The SEND students at KS4 Music/Performing Arts are currently 27%-33% of the class group and so are above the whole school SEND percentage which indicates these students feel supported in this subject area.

Curriculum structure:

In key stage three (Years 7, 8 and 9) students are provided with one hour of teaching per week for half a school year. These students then swap to Drama for the other half of the school year. Both Drama and Music lessons are taught by full time subject specialists. The Music teacher is a vocal specialist who provides 1:1 vocal coaching outside of school and who also leads Stagecoach.

In key stage four (Years 10 and 11) students are provided with three hours a week. These classes both work towards the WJEC Performing Arts technical award but are split into their chosen discipline so there is a specific Music class at KS4. All KS4 lessons are taught by the Music teacher.

With regard to links to the model music curriculum and opportunities within lessons for performance and ensemble work please refer the following points:

We use a carousel approach which doesn't fit with the values of comprehensive education as stated by the model music curriculum (MMC). We will continue to work with senior leaders to try and implement this.

Opportunities for singing, performing and playing an instrument in lesson times:

- Our Music teacher is a vocal specialist and therefore we have an increased timetable of vocal/singing learning including extra-curricular activities relating to choir and small singing groups.
- All schemes of learning encourage listening and an increased understanding of different world music through appraisal and listening analysis.
- Singing, especially ensemble singing, is taught across both key stages and provides the opportunities for students to perform together through harmonisations and lead singing roles.
- Expressive performance is also stressed, especially in KS4. The importance of performance with emotional execution and expression is considered.
- Listening and understanding musical features of a range of musical styles and genres are stressed in KS3, building up prior knowledge for KS4 units.
- Composing is taught through DAW (music technology) from Year 8 which follows the MMC guidelines that states that the exploration of melodic composition should be touched upon.
- Improvisation and composition is encouraged throughout KS3 and KS4 with SOWs covered such as songwriting, film music and Year 10/Y11 coursework (units 1,2 &3). By the end of KS3 students would have engaged in creative processes such as compositional work, improvisation and performances throughout the school year.
- Repertoire from the MMC has been used in KS3 lessons, mainly for Y9 film music topic.
- Music from 'Star Wars' which cover the Western classical traditional music from before 2000. Popular musical styles are also covered including pop, rock, RnB, disco and HipHop.
- Class ensemble instrumental sessions including whole class djembe lessons are taught to KS3, as suggested in the MMC.

Summary of Partnerships which support our Music curriculum/co-curriculum:

We have a partnership with Services for Education who will provide peripatetic Music lessons for a range of disciplines (drums, guitar, DJ/Music tech, keyboards) starting September 2024. We will also use their services as the Music Hub to engage in further music showcasing and experiential opportunities. We will also have a trust wide choir developed in partnership with Black Voices who will have two full days of rehearsals in Autumn term with two public performances and then meet weekly and perform half termly in the Spring and Summer terms. We are continuing to offer Soundlab sessions at the RBC where up to 6 students can network with other young people and develop their performance skills.

We also have a partnership with the Hippodrome Theatre in Birmingham and this provides opportunities to experience theatre productions, all of which include music and musical direction. We have a Hippodrome practitioner in one day a week to work

with students in lessons and on workshops including songwriting and singing (She is a vocal specialist). For this upcoming year, we have planned for a group of 10 students to take part in the Tina Turner project with the Hippodrome and these students will be able to watch the theatre show as well as work with our Hippodrome practitioner to prepare a performance. This performance will be recorded for the Hippodrome showcase event. In addition, we are hoping to launch our first school production this year, Hairspray, so music students will be creating performance acts related to this show and will work with our Hippodrome practitioner when preparing their vocal acts.

In the previous academic year, in addition to the partnership with the Hippodrome, we also had a partnership with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire who provided a range of opportunities: a Year 9 African drumming workshop, Year 8 Careers in Music workshops, Year 10 Band in a Day workshop, Year 11 Curriculum support for WJEC Unit 3, a live band gig for Year 8 and support with the COREus school choir. We also worked with RBC to organise for some of our students to attend the Soundlab sessions. RBC also provided support with upkeep of instruments and learning environments.

Music qualifications at KS4 and other awards:

In KS4, students study for the WJEC Performing Arts Technical Award Level ½. Summer 2024 is our first completed series, prior to this, students studied AQA Drama and OCR Music GCSEs. We do not currently offer any other musical qualifications or awards at school.

There is the possibility of students achieving Music grades as a result of the peripatetic lessons that we will be offering starting in September 2024.

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.

We offer a weekly singing club after school called Harmony Heights that is led by our Music teacher. These students practise together as an ensemble as well as receiving 1:1 guidance on solo acts. The Harmony Heights students work together to develop vocal performances for our school showcases which occur twice a year. Last year these students performed several acts in the showcase. In addition, we have a school band made up of three students who perform at every school showcase and take on a student leader role within the department. The band meet on a weekly basis in school

to practice. We have a small practice room that is used by the school band as this is where the drums are set up and other extra-curricular activities take place in the Music classroom.

For the past four years we have had a trust wide choir (COREus) led by an RBC practitioner which involved students from all four schools in our academy trust rehearsing and performing together at public events and at the RBC. This academic year we will work with Black Voices to develop a school choir that will rehearse on a weekly basis in school and then perform once a half term with students from the other CORE schools. We will start to work with Black Voices this Autumn on two full day rehearsals and two public performances.

In September 2024 we will be introducing peripatetic music lessons for four disciplines (Music tech/DJ, guitar, drums and keyboards). This will provide 8 hours of focused learning and practice for students and will support more students in working towards music grades and becoming lifelong players. Our peripatetic music lessons will be paid for by the trust through our school partnership with Services for Education and students from all year groups have been selected for these lessons with the highest number coming from Year 9. There are also lessons available to our children in care that will be offered lessons.

We do not currently offer instrument loans or Music related provision at the weekend or during the holidays. As a wider range of students will now be learning an instrument at school, this may be something that is more in demand and has value to progress skill level through regular practice. From this year we will be able to organise instrument loans through Services for Education for those students taking peripatetic lessons.

We are launching our Music ambassadors programme in school this year for those students who want to take on a student leader role in helping at Arts events and meeting regularly to work on school projects.

Students can register their interest in joining the school choir, Harmony Heights ensemble, being part of school production or instrument lessons by speaking with any member of the Arts staff team, attending the HH/Music club or submitting an application to be a Music Ambassador.

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.

This academic year there will be several opportunities for Musical performances including: Winter Showcase, School Production and presentation assemblies. Students from all years will perform in school-based events and students can get involved by attending the Music or Harmony Heights club or speaking with the Music teacher to register their interest. Students will have the opportunity to perform Music of their own selection as well as working collaboratively with other Arts to create a performance (school production). The audiences will include the wider school community (parents, student, governors) as well as presentation assemblies that take place in school.

In partnership with the Hippodrome (HEN) we will be taking students to see Hairspray the musical this September to support the school production. This will support students in creating performances for our school showcase and developing understanding of musical theatre.

Performing Arts students and students from Music/Harmony Heights club who are interested in performing in the school production. We also have a showcase project planned with the Hippodrome to see Tina Turner the musical and create a Musical performance with support from our HEN practitioner. This performance will form part of an online showcase of work from participating HEN schools. At the end of the school year, we plan to take a selection of students to see Mary Poppins the musical as a reward for our Arts leaders. This will allow students to experience further musical theatre and direction.

As we are a member of the Music Hub we will be offered free opportunities for both listening and performing.

In the future

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

Ongoing:

We aim to foster the collaborative groups/ensembles that we have and build upon these, for example we aim to recruit a vocalist for the band and additional members.

We aim to provide more opportunities for students to perform in front of others to build confidence. We have begun embedding this in Year 7 and hope to build on as the years progress. This might include more opportunities in lesson time, and working to create a culture to support this, as well as setting up more regular school events such

as open mic night, more regular assembly performances, a stage to perform on in the Music room, performing during break/lunch and performances showing on school screens.

Year 1:

Key aims for this academic year are to successfully implement the peripatetic lessons and ensure these are well attended and progressive. We hope to provide opportunity for the students receiving lessons to perform to others at school assemblies/events/lessons. We will also work with Services for Education to organise instrument loans as needed for these students.

We aim to develop a passionate and committed student leadership team within Music who are able to provide peer support in lessons, to lead Music events in school, to provide technical support at events and to perform confidently in front of others. We hope that this team will contribute with ideas to enhance the Music co curriculum.

Year 2:

We aim to provide more opportunities for students (ideally all years) to attend Music events where they can experience live performance and be inspired by professional practitioners and settings. This will also broaden their awareness of careers within Music.

We aim to increase uptake of Music at KS4 using the above initiatives as well as raising awareness of Music careers in KS3. We have prioritised a large amount of students from Year 9 to attend the peripatetic lessons which will hopefully support a strong uptake.

Year 3:

In future years we hope to secure one lesson per week Music lesson per week for every student in KS3 and a renovation of the Music classroom and practice room to provide a more suitable and inspirational space in which to perform. This would include a larger practice room to allow the band to practise with adequate space and to allow for stage presence and a stage area with lights, pa desk in the Music room.

With regard to equipment and resources, we could enhance our music provision by getting recording equipment such as interfaces and recording microphones so that we can record student performance in a high quality. We also need to upgrade the macs and software to allow students to continue to create music tech outcomes.

Further information (optional)

[What We Do | B:Music \(bmusic.co.uk\)](https://www.bmusic.co.uk)

[Royal Birmingham Conservatoire | Birmingham City University \(bcu.ac.uk\)](https://www.bcu.ac.uk)

[Strategy 2025 | Services for Education | Birmingham](#)

[Annual Review 2023 - Services For Education](#)

[The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[What the national plan for music education means for children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Teaching music in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)