

# Music development plan summary: Rainham Mark Grammar School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	May 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	E Smallwood
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	V Tappous
Name of local music hub	Kent Music / Dynamics
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Curriculum Map 2024-25						
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7	Bridging Unit; Elements	Medieval Music	Keyboard	Orchestra	Major & Minor	Cross-Curricular
8	Keyboard	Improvisation	Chords	Chromatic & Whole Tone; Graphic Scores	Blues	Festival
9	Ukulele	Pop Music	Gamelan	Minimalism	Electronic Dance Music (EDM)	Creative Project
10	Elements	Calypso & Samba	Baroque Concerto	Classical Concerto	Romantic Concerto	Indian Classical
	Begin NEA (comp and perf)	Rock 'n' Roll & Stadium Rock	Pop ballad & 90s pop	Film Music	Film Music	Bhangra
11	Greece, Israel & Palestine	African Drumming	Course content review and revision; NEA completion; past papers			
	Film	Computer Game Music				
12 & 13 Music	Units taught concurrently throughout Y12 and 13. Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven; Popular song – blues, jazz, swing, and big band; Programme music 1820-1910; Innovations in music, 1900 to the present day; composition and performance coursework.					
12 & 13 Music Tech	Units taught concurrently throughout Y12 and 13. Recording; Technology-based composition; Listening and analysing; Producing and analysing					

KS3 students receive one hour of classroom Music a week.

GCSE students can take Music as an option, receiving five hours of classroom teaching a fortnight.

A Level students can take Music and Music Technology as options, receiving ten hours of classroom teaching a fortnight.

The Model Music Curriculum (MMC) was published in March 2021 as non-statutory guidance for schools during Key Stages 1, 2, and 3. It recognises the importance of Music not only as an academic subject, but it is also practical, creative, collaborative, celebratory, and challenging.

The MMC recommends that students should experience performing, listening, and composing, with both singing and instrumental skills experienced during the key stage.

By the end of KS3 (Year 9), pupils will have:

- Gained an aural knowledge of some of the great musical output of human civilisation. This list is indicative but not exhaustive.
  - Medieval: Hildegard von Bingen, Gregorian chant, Machaut, Josquin
  - Baroque: Bach, Vivaldi, Handel
  - Classical: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven
  - Romantic: Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov
  - Modern: Ades, Derbyshire, Prokofiev, Stravinsky, Villa Lobos
  - Impressionism: Debussy, Ravel
  - Minimalism: Reich, Glass, Oldfield
  - Ghanaian drumming
  - Traditional Chinese music
  - Indian Classical music
  - Gamelan
  - Blues: Muddy Waters, Bessie Smith
  - Popular styles: Rock 'n' Roll, Stadium Rock, Pop Ballads, 90s solo artists, Indie, Britpop, Heavy Metal, Reggae, Disco
  - EDM and contemporary electronic styles
  - Film Music: John Williams, Danny Elfman, Hans Zimmer
- Engaged with creative processes through improvisation and composition
- Built an understanding of how musical elements work
  - Through composition, performance, listening, and analysis
- Developed knowledge of notes and improved fluency in musical notation
  - Traditional notation is used alongside alternative forms such as TAB and graphic scores
- Pupils all sing during KS3, with a massed choir put together for school concerts. All pupils in KS3 learn the basics of the keyboard and ukulele, alongside classroom tuned and untuned percussion. Some students also learn the guitar.

These skills should build on those taught at Primary School during Key Stages 1 and 2 – Secondary School should not be the first time students experience formal classroom Music education. This is still a work in progress for some primary schools, with the range of musical experience and formal education very varied pupils when they start in Year 7.

## 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.

All students, regardless of year group, are able to receive individual and paired instrumental and vocal lessons with a visiting peripatetic teacher. Currently offered are: violin, viola, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, piano, keyboard, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, pop vocals, musical theatre vocals, classical vocals, drum kit. We work with Dynamics and Kent Music to provide appropriately qualified peripatetic teachers. They also assist with finding teachers if instruments other than those listed above are requested, for example 'cello, oboe, or double bass. There is a cost for these lessons, paid directly to the peripatetic teacher. Pupil Premium funding is used where appropriate.

A select group of Year 7 students learn wind instruments through a band program, receiving paired lessons and weekly ensemble rehearsals.

We have a broad and inclusive extra-curricular offering, taking place during lunch time and after school. This is provided free of charge by Music staff, outside of directed time hours. Some clubs are suitable for complete beginners, while others have a minimum standard.

Currently on offer are: String Group, Music Tech club, Wind Band, Jam Club, Ukulele Club, Brass Group, Big Band, a Singing Group, Percussion Club, and a Folk Music session. Every two years we put on a full school musical. We offer other clubs as and when the demand is there, for example Percussion Group, Senior Vocal Group, Guitar Club, and Trombone Choir.

Students can have the opportunity to experience workshops such as Samba, Steel Drums, and Gamelan.

The practice rooms are available for all students to use, with a booking system in place. The rooms can be used for individual and small group rehearsal at both lunch and break times.

RMGS hosts the MMA Saturday Music Centre on a weekly basis, and is also the venue for the holiday music courses. The Music Centre offers a wide range of opportunities such as a choir, orchestra, fife group, string group, jazz group, and music appreciation.

The holiday courses culminate in concerts to celebrate the hard work and achievement of the students involved.

As a school we offer the Arts Award, and students can use their musical skills and interests to work towards Bronze, Silver, or Gold awards.

Students taking DofE can use musical skills to count towards this qualification.

We are currently supported by the hub through the provision of peripatetic teachers, free instrument loans, and the opportunities presented to our students to further their musical experiences outside the classroom through participation in ensembles and concerts.

## 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.

There are several formal performing opportunities every year. School ensembles perform, and alongside that any student (from Y7-13) can audition to be a soloist. There is no prerequisite for students to be in a club, taking lessons, or opting for GCSE or A Level. The Christmas Concerts have a massed Year 7 choir. Every concert gives proceeds from ticket sales and donations to charity, helping students make a positive contribution to the wider community through their hard work and performance. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium can use it to cover two tickets to the concert.

Major formal concerts take place at Christmas and Easter.

Informal concerts, in the form of a Lunchtime Recital Series, are held in terms 1 and 6. Any student can perform, and no auditions are required. There is no charge for these concerts.

Every two years, in conjunction with the Drama department, we put on a whole-school musical – a major commitment in terms of time and money.

Trips to suitable concerts are organised when they are available. The Bright Sparks concerts are a regular event and have a very rich educational value.

When time and budget allow, workshops in school allow students to experience styles such as Samba, Gamelan, and Steel Pan Calypso.

Students perform in assembly to raise the profile of the depth of musical talent.

Year 7 students put on a Cross-Curricular performance as part of an Expressive Arts showcase in the summer term, culminating in a performance to parents and peers.

Year 8 students have the opportunity to perform in the Performing Arts festival.

Year 9 students have the chance to pick performing or composing as part of a creative project bringing together all the skills they have developed in Music during KS3.

In the local area, several orchestras and musical groups give free or heavily discounted tickets to students.

## In the future

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

Use this space to include any information on any improvements you plan to make for subsequent years in curriculum music, co-curricular music or musical experiences, including when you plan to introduce changes.

Due to the changes in the school day, the hours available for formal KS3 Music education have fallen. We have subsequently had to re-do the KS3 curriculum, and over the next three years will reflect on the success of the curriculum and make appropriate refinements and tweaks as necessary.

It is hoped that the KS3 Bright Sparks concert, given by the LPO, will be reintroduced as this is a very high calibre event to introduce students to the orchestra.

If budgets allow, it is hoped that we can continue to offer workshops during KS3 for students to experience instruments and styles not usually available in school.

Introduce a Summer Showcase event for Music, drama, dance, and art.