

Music development plan summary: Rainham Mark Grammar School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
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.

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7	Bridging Unit; Elements; Sea Shanties	Medieval Music	Keyboard	Orchestra; Classical Music	Major & Minor; Music Technology composition	Cross-Curricular
8	Keyboard; Major and minor; Music Technology composition	Improvisation around the World	Chords; Music Technology sequencing	Chromatic & Whole Tone; Graphic Scores	The Blues	Expressive Arts Festival
9	Ukulele; Development of Pop Music	Film 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					

Please note, at KS3 the curriculum is in a period of development to take into account the changing hours of provision, so some topics appear more than once to ensure that, by the end of Year 9, all students have covered the necessary material.

KS3 students receive three hours of classroom Music a fortnight in year 7, and two hours of classroom Music a fortnight in years 8 and 9.

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 at RMGS 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: Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, Bessie Smith
 - Popular styles: Rock 'n' Roll, Stadium Rock, Pop Ballads, 90s solo artists, Indie, Britpop, Heavy Metal, Reggae, Disco, Hip Hop
 - 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, lead sheets, and graphic scores

- Pupils all sing during KS3, including during a Sea Shanty unit and 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, Choir, Trombone Choir, 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 Percussion Club.

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.

We have introduced our first summer showcase in 2025, as discussed in our 2024-25 development plan. This event, which will now become an annual occurrence, was designed as a celebration of the talents and abilities of students across the Expressive Arts faculty. Parents first start in the Art department for a gallery of student work, then move to see some dance, followed by drama performances, finishing up with Musical performances. The musical performances show the progression a student at RMGS can make throughout their musical career, starting with the Year 7 Band Programme, followed by Y10 Music GCSE ensembles, and finishing with the school's flagship ensemble, Big Band.

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 other year the Music department, in conjunction with the wider Expressive Arts faculty, puts on a school musical which is open to all members of the school community. All cast, crew, and band members are students. Last year we put on the school's version of Grease, and in recent years we have done School of Rock, Beauty and the Beast, High School Musical, and Little Shop of Horrors.

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, with autonomy given to the students to pick suitable repertoire and group size.

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, including Maidstone Symphony Orchestra (free tickets), City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra, and Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra.

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 varied over the last few years. We are writing and re-organising the curriculum to ensure that students gain the skills and knowledge necessary to move on to GCSE, while also providing a broad, balanced, and skills-based experience which enables all students to become life-long global citizens with an appreciation for music and instrumental skills.

We will continue to be reflective teachers, and adapt the curriculum where 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.

We apply as soon as possible for the GCSE Bright Sparks concert, as they sell out quickly. We have been lucky so far in getting tickets.

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.

Cement the Summer Showcase event for Music, drama, dance, and art.