

Music development plan summary: Queen Elizabeth's School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	24/02/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	24/02/2026
Name of the school music lead	Lucy Welsman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	DMEH
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.

KS3 students have one hour of timetabled music every week, which is delivered by a music subject specialist. The schemes of learning are informed by the government's model music curriculum and cover the following skills:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Performing/Instrumental Performance

KS3 students have access to electronic keyboards (1 per student) and a range of other rock/pop instruments including drum kits, guitars and bass guitars. Students who play other instruments than those listed above are encouraged to bring them in to school and use them in lessons, when appropriate.

In year 9, students complete a composition project using Garageband on Mac (18 workstations).

The highly practical schemes of learning are fully inclusive. Each task is differentiated and students are stretched through a range of feedback opportunities. We strive to get students to perform to one another as often as possible and encourage regular peer review.

At KS4, we deliver the Eduqas GCSE course over five hours per fortnight. All students are encouraged to take peripatetic lessons alongside this course and funding is often provided for FSM students via the QE Education Foundation.

The course is structured as follows:

- Component 1 – Performing (30%)
- Component 2 – Composing (30%)
- Component 3 – Listening & Appraising (40%)

We take advantage of as many DMEH events and opportunities as possible and frequently liaise with other music departments for marking, moderating and planning.

At KS5, we deliver the Eduqas A level music course over ten hours per fortnight. Eight hours are teacher-led whilst two hours are independent study sessions.

The course is structured as follows:

- Component 1 – Performing (35%)
- Component 2 – Composing (25%)
- Component 3 – Appraising (40%)

At KS5, we also deliver the Pearson Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music Performance over ten hours per fortnight. Eight hours are teacher-led whilst two hours are independent study sessions.

The course is structured as follows:

- Unit 1 – Practical Theory & Harmony
- Unit 2 – Professional Practice in the Music Industry
- Unit 3 – Ensemble Performance
- Unit 6 – Solo Performance

All KS5 music students are encouraged to take 1:1 peripatetic lessons alongside these courses.

Here is a link to the music curriculum overview:

<https://www.qe.devon.sch.uk/site/data/files/curriculum/C4295516B445BD4C16E846C5A528B327.pdf>

Part B: Extra-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.

At QE we have team of 10 peripatetic tutors who offer 1:1 lessons in a range of instruments/skills. They include:

- Piano/keyboard
- Vocals
- Violin/Viola
- Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone
- Guitar/Bass Guitar
- Drum kit/Percussion
- Composition Skills
- Trumpet/French Horn/Brass

We currently have 89 students taking private lessons across the school. Many of those are supported financially via applications to the QE Education Foundation and the DMEH instrumental bursary. Students who qualify for FSM can also apply for £100 towards these lessons each academic year, which often allows them starting point. DS students and/or students who struggle with attendance are actively encouraged to learn an instrument or take singing lessons. The music department supports this through instrument loans and funding applications. This has already had a very positive impact on several of our DS students since September.

We have close links with the Crediton Youth Orchestra (CYO), the organisers of which run regular taster sessions and recruitment drives within school. This offers another avenue to heavily subsidised lessons and allows our students to be part of a more traditional orchestra. It also allows our students to socialise with other year groups and students from other local schools.

Students are encouraged to use the music facilities during break times and lunch times to enhance their individual practice or production skills. KS4 and 5 students are also able to access the facilities should they wish to work on their coursework.

We have a weekly jazz band session which is open to all year groups and all abilities, including singers. The jazz band went on a concert tour to Italy in the summer of 2023 and we are hoping to plan another one for next year. We perform regularly in the wider community and have benefitted from the jazz sessions that the DMEH have organised.

We have a year 7/8 choir, which rehearses during the autumn term in preparation for the Christmas carol service.

The annual musical theatre production takes place every February and always includes a live band/orchestra. The cast members are given a range of vocal workshops and rehearsals throughout the five months that we rehearse. The musicians vary each

year, depending on the show, but the students involved are always stretched by the experience.

Student bands also rehearse after school in the music space. Our current year 11 band will be playing the Devon Schools Battle of the Bands final in the near future, having spent a great deal of time refining their sound and performance as much as possible.

The music department gets involved with as many local events as possible and is always keen to create a platform for performance for our students to showcase their skills to the wider community. As a music team, we see the extra-curricular opportunities as being as important as the classroom experiences and believe they should be a central part of daily life at school.

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.

Year 7 and 8 have assemblies from our peripatetic tutors, which will include short performances by current students and demos. These are to raise awareness of the availability of the lessons and to promote the individual instruments.

Peripatetic tutors and staff from CYO attend our year 5/6 open evenings, where we have an extra-curricular music stand each year. Parents can sign up for lessons before the start year 7. We will often have a student band performing at the open evenings to showcase the groups that we have.

Year 7 and 8 all attend a carol service in the run up to Christmas, which features readings, carols and musical performances. The year 7/8 choir performs alongside the whole school jazz band plus individual and small group pieces. This takes place during the school day and is compulsory to all to attend.

The 6th form leadership team organises a carol service in the school chapel, which takes place in the week before Christmas. This includes the traditional lessons and carols plus solo and small group performances. This takes place in the evening and is open to the public.

Auditions for the annual Musical Theatre production take place in September. The show itself runs in the first week of February. Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 5:30 throughout the autumn term and January. Sunday rehearsals are added in November. The cast receive a range of vocal training sessions throughout the process. The orchestra/band being rehearsing in November.

KS4 students take part in the BSO Live workshop, which the DMEH provides each year. All year 11 music students are invited and encouraged to take part.

Having taken part in the Devon Schools Battle of the Bands last year, we will be entering our year 11 band again this year. This is organised by the DMEH.

Year 7 and 8 students have been invited on a trip to watch the BSO at Exeter University in March. This is the first year we have run this so is relatively small in numbers but we are hoping to grow this for next year.

The 6th form leadership team organises an easter service in the school chapel, which takes place in the week before Easter. This includes a sermon plus solo and small group performances. This takes place during the school day and is open to a small number of each year group.

Summer concert will include a wide range of performances from students from all years. This will take place in the evening and will be open to the public.

Summer showcase will allow our singers to perform songs from their favourite shows. This will take place in the evening and will be open to the public.

Peripatetic recitals – several of our peripatetic tutors host recital evenings (straight after school) in the summer term, which provides their students with an opportunity to showcase the progress they have made through the year.

In the future

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

We are aiming to grow the number of students learning an instrument or taking singing lessons through increased promotion (performances in assemblies/music lessons) and by including the peripatetic tutors in the planning/promotion.

We are hoping to do more joint projects with the CYO.

We will be applying to run the next jazz band concert tour and hopefully linking with the band at Lipson School with a view to some collaborative projects/performances.

We will continue to take advantage of the opportunities that the DMEH offer each year.

We would like to improve our choir and strengthen our link with the TW choir.

We will continue to review the effectiveness of our curriculum provision and ensure that the music team attends relevant training.