

Music development plan summary: Nottingham Free School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	16 th September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st September 2024
Name of the school music lead	Lauren Wilson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Rebecca Farnie
Name of local music hub	Nottingham Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Nottingham Music Tuition Ltd.

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.

Our ambition at Nottingham Free School is for all of our students to develop a truly personal and emotional connection, as well as appreciation, for Music. They will listen to and explore a diverse range of musical pieces, celebrating the cultures in our school and wider community. They will express themselves clearly and purposefully and will form developed opinions about their musical interests, by finding the true value in music and what it means to them. Through performance, composition and appraising music in and out of the classroom, students' knowledge, skills and comprehension will progressively deepen throughout their Music curriculum journey.

Music at Nottingham Free School follows a 3-year KS3 model. Students have 1 hour a week throughout the year at KS3 and students have the option to choose Music at GCSE and A Level. Students will cover the following topics in Y7-Y9:

	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3	Half Term 4	Summer Term
Y7	Elements of Music	African Drumming	Keyboard Skills	Reggae	Song Writing 1
Y8	Film Music	Blues	Samba	British Pop Music	Song Writing 2
Y9	Game Music	Indian Raga	Dance Music	Musicals	Performance Workshop

The KS3 curriculum is based on the National Curriculum using the Model Music curriculum for KS3 as guidance. The curriculum has also been designed for students to experience transformative academic and personal growth by basing the subject content specifically to the demographic of our school. Students from all backgrounds and abilities can access and participate in all the music curriculum. Students with SEN needs are supported using their pupil profiles so that they can access the learning in and out of the classroom.

Throughout the KS3 curriculum, students have the opportunity to sing and play musical instruments in lesson such as keyboards, drums and percussion, ukulele and guitars. Students are also encouraged to bring in their own instruments to use if they wish to. Most tasks have some form of group work to encourage ensemble learning whilst there are some tasks which require solo performance. Composition is also a key skill covered throughout the KS3 curriculum as well as development of Music Technology using Garageband.

GCSE students receive 5 hours of lessons over a 2-week timetable following the Edexcel GCSE Music syllabus. GCSE students have four areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700-1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions. Students have 2 set works for each area which students developing their listening skills by understanding the characteristics for each element of music involved in these areas of study. Students will also have to compose two compositions, one following a brief set by the exam board and one free choice. Students will also have to perform twice, one as a solo and the other within an ensemble.

A Level students receive 9 hours of lessons over the 2 weeks following the AQA A Level Music syllabus. A Level students have to study three areas of study. The compulsory area of study is Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910 and students have a choice of 6 optional areas of study where they have to study two optional areas of study. At Nottingham Free School, we study Pop music and Music for Media. Students also must compose and perform similar to the GCSE syllabus.

Nottingham Free School has links with our local music hub, Nottingham Music Hub where students are offered opportunities to perform in local ensemble groups and participate in any competitions that they offer. Our school is also a member of Music Mark which is awarded through Nottingham Music Hub.

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 private instrumental tuition through Nottingham Music Tuition where we have a variety of instruments available to learn with private and group tuition available. The lessons available are:

- Vocals
- Guitar – Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar and Ukulele
- Drum Kit
- Piano
- Woodwind – Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone
- Strings – Violin, Viola and Cello
- Brass – Trumpet, Trombone and Tenor Horn.

The payment for these lessons is available at different price points so that music tuition is more accessible for all. We also offer payment plans for those students who are in receipt of FSM. As part of these music lessons, students are given the opportunity to participate in graded music exams. Depending on the instrument, teachers will use one of the following syllabus: ABRSM, Trinity or Rockschool.

As part of our school's enrichment program, we offer Choir and Rock/Pop Band to KS3. We have three practice rooms available to which KS4 and KS5 students are able to book out for music practice.

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.

Students have the opportunity to participate in two musical events throughout the year. In December, we have a Christmas Showcase which features music and drama performance from all year groups. Performers can choose to participate as a solo artist or in small groups. In July, we put on a school musical. This is in partnership with the drama department. This is available to all key stages to be involved. We strive to make these performances have as much student involvement as possible with students not only performing in the show but also work backstage and creating the art work and props if needed.

Throughout the year, we have annual celebrated days where music plays an important role. Students will be asked to volunteer their time to perform at open evenings, art

exhibitions, culture day and celebration assemblies. This opportunity is open to all year groups.

Students also have the opportunity to be part of the Nova Orchestra which is a trust-wide initiative for students to collaborate and perform together for Trust events.

In the future

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

At Nottingham Free School, it's our aim to make sure that all instruments are available for students to learn independently however occasionally, there are certain instruments that aren't as sought-after as others and therefore this means we are unable to offer lessons on these instruments. Working with Nottingham Music Tuition, we want to expand the interest of all instruments to the students by raising the profile in assemblies and class to show the students what the instruments are capable of.

As a school, we continue to develop and adapt our curriculum to cater to our cohort of students. This means adapting resources and lessons to increase knowledge and awareness for our student's understanding of how the world works. This development will continue throughout the year.

Due to staff on maternity leave, this year we are unable to run additional extra-curricular events or trips, however this will be made available again once the member of staff has returned to work.