

Music development plan summary



BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Music

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Chris Block, Head of Music
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Michael Whiteside, Assistant Headteacher
Name of local music hub	Soundstorm (BCP Music Hub)
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, extra-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 the music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Our vision for Music at Bournemouth School for Girls is to give students diverse, enjoyable and lasting musical experiences of which they can be enormously proud.

We aim to achieve this through curricular, extra-curricular and peripatetic instrumental and voice tuition. These three strands are supported by a programme of performances, trips and enrichment opportunities (such as workshops etc).

Our curriculum schedule is published annually on the 'BSG Curriculum' page of our school website: <https://wearebsg.uk/teaching-learning/the-bsg-curriculum/>

All students benefit from timetabled Music lessons until the end of Year 9 (end of Key Stage 3). From September 2024, lesson allocations are as follows:

- Year 7: 3 x 1 hour lessons per fortnight
- Year 8: 2 x 1 hour lessons per fortnight
- Year 9: 2 x 1 hour lessons per fortnight
- Year 10 (Edexcel GCSE Music): 5 x 1 hour lessons per fortnight
- Year 11 (Edexcel GCSE Music): 5 x 1 hour lessons per fortnight
- Year 12 (Edexcel A Level Music): 8 x 1 hour lessons per fortnight + 2 x 1 hour directed study
- Year 13 (Edexcel A Level Music): 8 x 1 hour lessons per fortnight + 2 x 1 hour directed study

Our Key Stage 3 Music curriculum aims to introduce students to music from different times, places and cultures with the intention of broadening their musical horizons. It features the disciplines of performing, composing and appraising, drawing on the varied experiences that students arrive with. It goes beyond the ambitions of the national curriculum and serves as a high-quality standalone experience for those students who end their curricular Music studies at the end of Year 9, whilst also providing strong foundations for the c. 20% of the cohort who continue with Music to GCSE.

The Edexcel GCSE Music specification, like all of the main exam boards, is comprised of:

- Performance (30%)
- Composition (30%)
- Appraising (40%)

The appraising paper covers four areas of study, giving students a broad overview of musical styles and conventions. As with our Key Stage 3 curriculum, the GCSE Music course provides an excellent standalone qualification, whilst also laying an excellent foundation for those who continue to A Level Music. Outcomes year-on-year are strong, and uptake is healthy and growing.

The Edexcel A Level Music specification has the same component weightings as GCSE. Many students who have left us to pursue Music courses at Higher Education level comment on how prepared the depth and breadth of the course makes them for University. Again, outcomes and destinations are strong at this level.

Annual results data for GCSE and A Level can be found on this page of our school website: <https://wearebsg.uk/school-information/statutory-information/>

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.

Our extra-curricular programme is extensive and inclusive, with opportunities for students of all ages and abilities. The timetable is shared widely with students in school, as well as being communicated with parents through newsletters and on our school website: <https://wearebsg.uk/teaching-learning/performing-arts/>

Typically, our offer of choirs and instrumental ensembles is as follows:

Choirs	Instrumental ensembles
Year 7 Singers	Camerata (junior orchestra)
Year 8 & 9 Singers	Sinfonia (senior orchestra)
Big Heart & Soul Choir (Y10+)	Jazz Band
Festival Choir (all years)	String Ensemble
Chamber Choir (auditioned)	Brass Ensemble
Vocal Harmony Group	Guitar Ensemble
Staff Choir	Percussion Ensemble

Teaching and practice rooms are also available for students to access, and we actively encourage student-led musical activity wherever possible.

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL TUITION

A team of eleven highly-qualified and experienced visiting teachers deliver one-to-one tuition across the full range of instruments as well as voice:

Piano	Flute Oboe Clarinet Bassoon Saxophone	Trumpet Cornet Horn Trombone Tuba	Guitar Ukulele	Drum kit Orchestral Percussion	Voice	Violin Viola 'cello Double bass
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Teachers are adept at tailoring their teaching to the needs of the individual. Many students opt to take graded exams (ABRSM, Trinity and RSL) and success is celebrated in the department. Others choose to develop their learning through a non-examined route.

In the past, we have run an 'Endangered Species' scheme, with the aim of promoting the learning of instruments that are less represented in our school. This has had a positive impact on the numbers of students learning brass instruments. These schemes offer funded tuition and free instrument loan, supported by Soundstorm. We will look to re-launch this programme in 2024/25, subject to funding.

Financial assistance is available for students in receipt of the pupil premium, and we always strive to support tuition costs in cases of hardship (through direct

communication with the Headteacher). Financial support opportunities are clearly indicated in parent communication.

Many of our students have their own instruments, but we try to facilitate loan instruments where required, either through those held in the department, or by arrangement with Soundstorm.

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.

CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES

Termly concerts take place in school, along with our annual Christmas Carol Service at Richmond Hill St Andrew's URC. These feature all of our departmental choirs and ensembles. Participation is a strength and continues to grow, with over 200 pupils consistently involved in each of these concerts.

In recent years we have also had very successful musical productions including *Little Shop of Horrors*, *West Side Story*, *Les Misérables*, *Hairspray*, *Elf*, *The Addams Family* and, most recently, *We Will Rock You*. Additionally, music is featured in weekly assemblies, giving soloists and smaller ensembles their chance to shine. Our biennial House Music Competition is fiercely contested and provides an opportunity for student leadership across each of our six Houses.

Further opportunities include: the Bournemouth Schools' Music Association Carol Festival at the Pavilion Theatre, the Bournemouth Music Competition and collaborations with other local schools and orchestras through SoundStorm (most recently *Carmina Burana* at the Lighthouse).

ENRICHMENT

Concert and theatre trips are an integral part of our departmental enrichment programme. GCSE and A Level musicians are often taken to venues locally and further afield for exposure to live music and musical theatre. Recent trips include Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra concerts, *Wicked* at the Apollo Victoria and *Come from Away* at the Mayflower.

In addition, we enjoy a good working relationship with our local Music Education Hub, Soundstorm, having just hosted their 'Set Works Live!' concert for our GCSE pupils and other schools across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Wherever possible, we seek to enhance our curricular and extra-curricular programme with workshops and other opportunities to engage and inspire our pupils. Last year, Year 8 students benefitted from an all-day folk

music workshop, Year 10 a songwriting workshop and Year 13 a series of composition masterclasses, all with visiting practitioners.

In the future

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

2024/25 sees an increase in Year 7 curriculum time for Music from 2 hours per fortnight to 3 hours per fortnight. We aim to build bespoke performance opportunities for Year 7 students to ignite their passion for Music on arrival at Bournemouth School for Girls.

We aim to relaunch our 'Endangered Species' programme, with an emphasis on promoting the learning of instruments that are less represented in our school. Further information will follow via direct mailings to parents.

Leadership of the department is changing with the recruitment of a new Head of Music for September 2024. The school will have three highly experienced, passionate and motivated Music teachers on the staff, with potential to further raise the profile of the subject.

Further detail will be published at a later date.

Further information

We make extensive use of our Performing Arts 'X' account to publish information about forthcoming events and opportunities, as well as weekly updates.

You can follow us [@BSGPerform](https://www.instagram.com/BSGPerform).

Michael Whiteside
Assistant Headteacher
July 2024