

Kingsdown School Music Development Plan 2025-26

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Music Hub:	Gloucestershire, Swindon, Wiltshire Music Hub
Other partner organisations	Swindon Music Cooperative

Curriculum Music

Key Stage Three students receive 2 hours of Music a fortnight.

The Music department is equipped with two classrooms each with thirty keyboards. One of the classrooms also has twenty-five computers. The department also has a range of tuned and untuned percussion. There are three practice rooms.

The Key Stage Three curriculum is designed to develop an understanding of musical concepts through Performing, Composing and Listening. During the key stage, students develop keyboard performing skills, learning to play with accurate pitch, accurate rhythm, in time with a backing rhythm and with the opportunity to play chords. Performing is used to aid an understanding of theoretical concepts as well as a way to increase student confidence. Whole-class singing is a feature of Year 7 lessons and this is an area that we are keen to develop further.

Students have opportunities to perform and compose individually and as pairs (to develop ensemble skills). Students learn musical vocabulary to be able to describe accurately the music they listen to. Students are exposed to music from a variety of styles and cultures through the listening journal which is a feature of lessons. The listening journal is informed by the Music Model Curriculum listening guidance.

Students are taught musical notation to enable them to have access to the language of written music. This involves rhythm, treble and bass clef notation.

We are developing the use of using Chromebooks to create music through the use of Bandlab to give students another opportunity to create music out of school.

All Key Stage Three Lessons begin with a **Do Now Activity**, usually consisting of a recall quiz on Chromebooks. Students record their scores and if necessary a question on which they need to improve. We also share in our **Listening Journal** which is an opportunity for students to be exposed to a wide range of music from the 12th to the 21st Centuries from within the Western Canon and music from other cultures. Much of this music is based on the suggested listening from the [Model Music Curriculum](#) and aims to broaden cultural capital.

Curriculum Overview

Year 7

Unit 1	Introduction to Music <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elements of Music• Using the keyboard.• Rhythm• Singing
Unit 2	Pentatonic Music <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performing the Black Note March on the keyboard
Unit 3	Instruments of the Orchestra and Musical Notation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening• Developing an understanding of Treble Clef Staff notation
Unit 4	Ternary Form <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performing a piece in Ternary Form• Composing and notating a tune in Ternary Form
Unit 5	Gamelan Music <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performing music in the style of Music from Java and Bali

Year 8

Unit 1	Tones, Semitones and Major Scales <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performing EastEnders or Fur Elise• Understanding what Tones, Semitones and Major Scales are.
Unit 2	Mischievous Robot <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Composing a piece from a short musical idea.
Unit 3	Reggae Music <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performing Buffalo Soldier
Unit 4	Blues Music <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performing twelve-bar blues• Understanding the social and historical context.

Year 9

Unit 1	Film Music - Performing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The history and development of Film Music• Performing James Bond theme
Unit 2	Film Music - Composing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Composing a soundtrack to a James Bond film sequence
Unit 3	Popular Music <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The development of Popular Music from Blues and Rock and Roll• Performing a piece of Popular Music
Unit 4	Music Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Composing music using Bandlab• Exploring layers of sound and loops.

Key Stage Four

Key Stage Four students receive 5 hours a fortnight. Students study for GCSE following the AQA syllabus: Listening 40%; Composing 30%; Performing 30%.

All GCSE students have access to a school-funded weekly 15-minute instrument / vocal lesson.

Students have the opportunity to compose using Sibelius software.

After school intervention sessions give students the opportunity to develop further their compositions and to practise performing individually and as ensembles.

The Music Hub provides an annual opportunity for students to attend a concert given by members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performing music relevant to the GCSE course.

Supporting Students with SEND

Students are taught in mixed-ability groupings across Year 7, 8 and 9 including students with SEND. The school's TEMPO framework focuses on quality Task Design, carefully crafted Explanations and Modelling in order to make sure **all** learners are able to succeed. The curriculum is appropriately scaffolded to meet the needs of all students. This has been a focus over the last year and will continue to be refined and adapted as we review each unit of work.

All teachers have access to individual student SEN information through Class Charts. This information helps us to 'know our all our students'. This enables a well-crafted seating plan to be developed to take into account the needs of each individual.

As per our whole school policy, all resources are printed on cream paper as a matter of course and on different colours (blue, green etc.) where required as indicated in the SEN profiles.

The use of headphones whilst on keyboards promotes a calm atmosphere supporting our ASC students and one in which students can control their own volume requirements.

All performance tasks are modelled with videos providing students with a visual as well as an aural demonstration. Students are able to access these videos via Google Classroom to support learning the pieces. All reading and comprehension tasks are scaffolded in line with our Whole-School reading strategy.

Extra-Curricular Music

Extra-curricular opportunities are an important component of Kingsdown's musical offer.

Individual instrumental and vocal tuition is available provided by the Swindon Music Cooperative. Current lessons available include Piano and Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Violin, Singing, and Brass. Information on applying for lessons and pricing is available here:

<https://swindonmusiccoop.co.uk/apply-for-music-lessons/>

The school is able to provide a subsidy for all GCSE Music students.

The Music Hub provides the opportunity for an instrumental progression group. Students have the opportunity to learn an instrument in a small group for a year for free. Currently students are learning either trumpet or trombone.

Students from all year groups have the opportunity to join the school choir which rehearses weekly after school. Performance opportunities for the choir include Open Evening, Christmas Concert and Recital Evenings.

Students have access to the music practice rooms at lunchtimes and after school and this has led to many students developing their love of playing and also forming ensembles / bands

Musical Experiences

The school hosts three **Recital Evenings** a year, usually in November, March and July. These are opportunities for students to perform individually or as an ensemble to a friendly audience. Each concert has a range of performers from beginners to those with great experience. Staff have also been known to perform. These evenings also provide opportunities for the school choir and other groups to perform.

The **Christmas Concert** takes place in mid-December and is an opportunity for school ensembles to perform as well as individual soloists and readings. This has taken place at the local church and gives an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate Christmas.

We have sometimes featured guest ensembles such as Take a Bow, a choir run by one of our staff members. This also gives us an opportunity to raise money for charity.

The school **Open Evening** allows individuals and the school choir to perform in public. Students also provide music at the annual **Prize Evening** in which students are awarded for their successes during the year.

The Music Department often works in collaboration with the Drama Department to offer a whole-school **production**. In recent years this has included Little Shop of Horrors (2019) Grease (2020), Aladdin (2022) and Beauty and the Beast (2023). This year we are working towards a **Performing Arts Showcase**.

Each year we take a group of GCSE students to a **GCSE Concert** given by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra showcasing music relevant for the GCSE course.

The Music Hub provides an annual **Singing Day** where students from across Swindon come together to rehearse and perform songs led by specialist instructors.

The Rotary Club hosts an annual **Young Musician of the Year** competition which is open to all schools in Swindon. Every year Kingsdown selects students in Years 9 and 11 to take part.

Reviewing last year's aims

Area of focus	Aim	Progress
Curriculum Allocation	The change in the school day from 50 minute to 60 minute lessons from September 2024 increases the KS3 curriculum allocation by 20 minutes a fortnight. This will mean we are matching the DFE recommended curriculum allocation and will allow us to progress through the	<p>The change to 60 minute lessons did allow us to complete the entire curriculum for all year groups for the first time in a number of years.</p> <p>The extra time has also opened up new opportunities for including our Listening Journal.</p>

	curriculum at a slightly accelerated rate, particularly when it comes to assessments.	
Singing	There is an ambition to include more singing within the KS3 curriculum. The increase in lesson length to 60 minutes presents an opportunity for this. In turn this should give us further opportunity to promote and grow our choir and students taking singing lessons.	Singing continues to be an area we are determined to develop. Since the beginning of the 2025/6 academic year, Year 7 lessons have nearly all featured a few minutes of singing. Staff also took part in CPLD at the River Learning Trust Cross-School Training Day based on building a singing curriculum which has stimulated new ideas and repertoire.
Co-Curricular Music	The increase in the length of lunchtime to 40 minutes gives us an opportunity for more enrichment at lunchtime. We will host a keyboard club allowing students to come to develop their skills on the keyboard outside of lessons.	Keyboard club commenced and continues this year. There is a regular group of (mostly) boys who come every week to play on the keyboard and it has become a safe space for some students.
	As well as the opportunity to host a lunchtime keyboard club there is a need to develop an instrumental ensemble to restore our pre-COVID extra-curricular provision.	This is something that is still to happen.
Live Music	An opportunity for KS3 students to experience live music is an ambition which	The idea of running a trip to a musical has been discussed alongside our

	we are keen to explore whether this be through a trip or inviting musicians into school.	curriculum lead for Drama and also our Cultural Capital Coordinator.
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The Future

KS4 Allocation	The current Year 10 lesson allocation has increased to six lessons a fortnight. This gives us the opportunity to develop in greater depth the essential skills required in performing, composing and listening.
GCSE Music	Develop further the new Section B teaching and revision resources ready for 2026 exams and beyond.
Singing Curriculum	We aim to continue the progress already made by sustaining singing as an important part of Year 7 in the first instance and building upon the CPLD we recently undertook. Plans include building a bigger library of appropriate songs that will be straightforward to learn but also will build skills such as part singing.
Ensemble	Find ways to offer opportunities for instrumentalists to play as part of an ensemble.

Further Information

[Kingsdown Music Curriculum Overview:](#)

Swindon Music Cooperative: <https://swindonmusiccoop.co.uk/>

Make Music Swindon: <https://makemusicswindon.org/about-the-hub/>