

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	<b>2024-2025</b>
Date this summary was published	<b>1/09/24</b>
<b>Date this summary will be reviewed</b>	<b>1/07/25</b>
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<b>Name of local music hub</b>	<b>Wolverhampton Music Service</b>

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.

## Part A: Curriculum Music

### KS3 Music Curriculum Overview

In **Year 7**, students are introduced to the basics of music, starting with the elements of music, including pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and form. They then learn about notation and rhythm, followed by an exploration of the instruments of the orchestra and basic chord progressions. The year wraps up with a focus on pop music, where students analyse different styles and develop their performance and composition skills.

In **Year 8**, students build on their foundation by exploring more diverse music styles. The year begins with African drumming, focusing on rhythm and ensemble playing, followed by reggae music, which introduces off-beat rhythms and syncopation. Music technology is introduced, allowing students to compose digital music tracks, and the term concludes with a study of the blues, focusing on scales and chord progressions. The final term is dedicated to developing skills learned throughout the year, with opportunities for solo and group performances.

**Year 9** focuses on more specialized music topics, such as dance music and its production techniques in the first term, followed by the role of music in film and video games. Students explore how music enhances storytelling and gameplay by composing soundtracks for different media. The second half of the year covers Western music history, starting from the Medieval period and continuing to the 20th century, where students perform pieces from key musical eras. The year concludes with a music festival, allowing students to showcase their musical growth through performances.

Further details on the website are here: <https://smestowacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Music.pdf>

## Part B: Extra Curricular music

The **Piano Club** provides students with an opportunity to explore and develop their piano-playing skills in a supportive, relaxed environment. Whether beginners or more advanced players, students receive guidance on technique, sight-reading, and musical expression. The club offers structured practice sessions, allowing students to work on both classical and contemporary pieces at their own pace. It's an excellent way to foster individual growth, with opportunities for students to perform in small recitals, building confidence and stage presence.

The **Community Choir** brings together students, staff, and sometimes even local residents for the shared joy of singing. Open to all skill levels, the choir focuses on vocal technique, harmony, and ensemble singing, with a diverse repertoire that spans genres such as pop, gospel, and traditional choral works. Regular rehearsals lead up to performances at school events, concerts, and community gatherings, creating a strong sense of teamwork and connection among participants.

Both clubs contribute significantly to students' musical development outside the classroom, providing a creative outlet while enhancing their collaborative skills and appreciation for music. They also offer performance opportunities that help students gain experience and confidence, making music a more accessible and enjoyable part of their everyday lives.

## Part C: Musical Experiences

Music plays a central role in enriching students' school life, offering a variety of opportunities to engage with performance and creativity. From classroom activities to school-wide events, students can experience music in numerous ways. Regular music lessons provide foundational skills in performance, composition, and theory, while extra-curricular clubs like the piano club, community choir, and instrumental ensembles offer deeper exploration and practice. These settings nurture both individual talent and group collaboration, fostering a strong sense of musical community.

One of the most exciting aspects of musical life at school is the chance to perform in **school shows and concerts**. Annual events such as talent showcases, seasonal concerts, and themed performances allow students to take the stage and share their musical achievements with peers, teachers, and parents. These performances often involve a variety of ensembles, from choirs and orchestras to solo acts and small groups, creating a vibrant and diverse musical experience. Rehearsals leading up to these events teach students discipline, time management, and the importance of teamwork, while the performances themselves build confidence and stage presence.

Special events like **musical theatre productions** or themed nights, such as "Music Through the Decades," offer a larger-scale platform for students to engage in collaborative productions. These shows often integrate singing, instrumental music, and dance, giving students a multi-faceted performance experience. For many, these productions become highlights of their school year, providing memories and experiences that extend beyond the classroom.

Through these various musical experiences, students not only develop technical skills but also learn the joy of performing and the powerful role that music plays in bringing communities together.

## In the future

The aims are:

- To maintain the musical events already established as annual events (including MacMillan Morning, Mince Pies and Carols, Christmas Concert,
- To make the Talent Show an annual event.

- To contribute to a performing arts team for an annual school musical show.
- To arrange opportunities to visit professional performances (previous years visits to Symphony Hall Birmingham) including a wide range of musical performances.
- To develop links with post 16 and post 18 career and study options

## Further Information

The Department Of Education:

Music plays a crucial role in shaping the framework and standards for music education in schools. It ensures that music is an integral part of the curriculum, providing guidelines that help educators design programs to foster creativity, cultural awareness, and technical proficiency among students.

The department emphasizes the importance of developing a broad range of musical skills, including performance, composition, listening, and critical analysis. Through national initiatives and support for extra-curricular activities, the Department of Education promotes access to music education for all students, recognizing its value in enhancing cognitive development, emotional well-being, and social interaction. By setting standards and providing resources, it aims to equip students with the opportunity to engage with music both academically and personally, contributing to a well-rounded education.

For more information see here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people>