

Music development plan for QMGS 2025-26

Overview

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.

The KS3 music curriculum is designed so that it engages all pupils of different musical abilities, from those who are naturally musically gifted to those who have had limited prior musical experience. Music at QMGS is ALL-INCLUSIVE. Through a carefully planned sequence of themed projects involving performing, composing and listening tasks, we aim to provide pupils with a wide range of musical experiences that will develop their appreciation of music. The emphasis is on enjoyment and inclusivity which means the KS3 course is deliberately highly practical. For some pupils, we hope we can foster a real passion for the subject that will encourage them to study music beyond Key Stage 3.

All pupils at Key Stage 3 receive a 50 minute class music lesson each week. The music SOW is based on a 'spiral curriculum model', which means performing, composing and listening skills first introduced in year 7 are re-visited in years 8 and 9 but at a more complex level.

In year 7, we have our **whole class instrumental project**; all pupils receive an instrument on loan for free to be used in class music lessons.

Topics taught in year 8 include: Blues music/Scales & Musicals.

Topics taught in year 9 include: Reggae/Film & Game Music.

At Key Stage 4 we offer pupils the option to continue music at GCSE level. We currently follow the Edexcel Exam board.

At Key Stage 5 music is offered as part of a 'MAT block'; pupils from QMGS can study A Level music, however they receive their lessons alongside other pupils at Aldridge school.

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.

Extra Instrumental Lessons

All pupils at QMGS have the option of receiving specialist small group (or one to one) instrumental tuition by one of our visiting peripatetic teachers. There is a charge for these extra lessons that parents pay via parent mail (currently £340/year). Each pupils receives a weekly 20 minute lesson.

Pupils are encouraged to take instrumental exams (ABRSM/Trinity College and Rock school) when ready. The school is a registered Trinity College Exam centre; we currently hold exams twice a year (November & June).

The school supports pupil premium pupils by reducing the lesson costs by £100/year.

The school also has a small supply of instruments that parents can chose to hire at a cost of £50/year.

Pupils are able to practice in one of the music department's practice rooms at lunchtimes, before and after school.

We offer a wide range of **extra curricular music ensembles** that pupils can join for free.

These include: Orchestra/Jazz band/Intermediate Band/Training Band/Clarinet ensemble/Sax Ensemble/ Guitar Ensemble/ Indian Drum Ensemble/ Whole school Choir/Choral Group/Skiffle Band.

We also have strong links with the local music education hub and many of our instrumentalists play with their Tuesday night music centre bands.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise.

Concerts

Each year the music department puts on various concerts; these typically include a Christmas Concert, a Spring Concert, a lower school & upper school soloists concert and an Arts festival in the summer term. These provide opportunities to showcase the many extra curricular music ensembles we have, but also our talented soloists too.

In addition to this, there are opportunities in both whole school and year group assemblies for pupils to perform throughout the year and at our annual Open evening.

Music is also an integral part of our annual Speech day.

The Skiffle group performs regularly in local care homes and at some of our feeder primary schools.

In the future

The following is an area that we would like to develop:

- We would like to provide further opportunities for our pupils to experience **live music** performed by professional musicians both in and outside of school. For example, a visit to Symphony Hall to see an orchestral concert; a trip to see a musical or a workshop in school for a select group of students working alongside visiting musicians.

Written By Mark Vause

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