

Music development plan summary: Sir Jonathan North Girls' College

Our music curriculum has been designed around the three fundamental strands of musical development: performing, composing and listening and appraising. The curriculum is predominantly practical and aims to engage students in the activity of making music for as much of their time in the classroom as possible. We believe that learning 'about' music should be minimal when a curriculum of 'doing' music develops the practical skills that will inform and strengthen students' wider understanding and appreciation of music. Students study singing, keyboard, ukulele, guitar, percussion (including drum kit) and use Garage Band and Musescore software. Each of these areas are progressively built upon over time using a spaced-learning approach e.g. guitar is introduced in Year 7 through a three-lesson topic, a more in-depth four-lesson guitar unit is delivered in the Spring term and is then returned to in the summer term as part of the ensemble performance unit. We aim for all students to have developed functional performance skills by the end of KS3 that they can use beyond the classroom and continue to develop into adult life.

Intended Outcome

- Confident students who can enjoy a lifetime connection and appreciation of music.
- Students who show confidence in social skills and can engage positively in collaboration alongside self-reliance.
- Creative thinkers who can independently adapt, problem solve and offer solutions.
- Resilient students who can face challenges within and outside of the Performing Arts.
- Reflective students who are analytical and able to evaluate their own and others' performances and compositions.
- Metacognitive learners who demonstrate self-motivation and self-regulation.
- Motivated and determined students who are fascinated with the world around them and how music contributes to their everyday lives.
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Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	20/11/2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	18/07/2025
Name of the school music lead	Simon Lee

Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Liz Young
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Service
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, 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.

Key stage 3 curriculum

The KS3 curriculum is intended to adequately prepare students for and feed into music at KS4 but ultimately, should serve as an enjoyable, engaging and broad musical experience for all students. Aspects of the Areas of Study from the GCSE specification are incorporated into the KS3 curriculum in various topics. Listening and appraising music is incorporated into every lesson at KS3 through means of directed listening and targeted questioning used at the start of each lesson. Notational skills and theory are also woven into the performance and composition topics and are appropriate and relevant i.e. staff notation is taught and used for keyboard work, TAB notation/chord charts for guitar etc. Assessment is regular and uses the LET model personalised to our curriculum allowing students to make rapid progress and take ownership of what is required from them to progress to the next level. Students’ current level of attainment is an *average* of all assessments taken at any given time.

All KS3 students learn:

- Singing
- Keyboard
- Ukulele
- Guitar
- Percussion (including drum kit)
- Music Technology

Key stage 4 curriculum GCSE

GCSE Music students in Years 10 – 11 follow the OCR GCSE specification.

Timetabling

- Year 7: 1 50-minute lesson per week.
- Year 8: 1 50-minute lesson per week.
- Year 9: 1 50-minute lesson per week.

GCSE: 3 50-minute lessons per week (1x single, 1x double).

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 engage a talented team of 8 specialist visiting music teachers who deliver one-to-one and small group music tuition for the following:

- Piano
- Vocal
- Guitar (Acoustic, Electric and Bass)
- Drum Kit
- Violin
- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Trumpet, Cornet and Trombone

Pupil Premium students can use their allocated allowance to subsidise music tuition fees up to 50%.

We also offer a range of ensemble activities:

- Whole-school mixed ensemble ('Band Academy')
- Whole-school orchestra
- Bi-annual whole school musical production

Students also engage in self-directed band rehearsals Monday – Friday after school in the music department where they can make full use of our instruments, amps and PA system including microphones, cables and mixer.

We have resourced a small recording studio in the department which is available to all students (upon request) to record their own and others' performances.

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.

We organise several musical performance opportunities each academic year:

- Winter Arts Festival (December)
- Lionheart Battle of the Bands (January – February)
- Whole School Musical Production (March – April)
- Summer Arts Festival (July)

In addition, the Expressive Arts Faculty arrange a range of varied educational trips e.g. theatre visits, collaborative musical performances, world music workshops etc.

In the future

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

We aim to further develop vocal performing skills within the curriculum as well as launching a school choir. It is anticipated that we will do this through planning new vocal-based topics to be delivered in KS3 and through engagement of specialist vocal tutors to lead on choir development.

Plans are also in place to purchase a class-set of African percussion (djembe) to be incorporated into the curriculum as well as launch an additional extra-curricular ensemble group.

Further information

Sir Jonathan North Girls' College has taken a lead role in developing and overseeing a trust-wide 'shared music curriculum'. This has involved the creation of several units of work that have been delivered by all secondary schools within the Lionheart Educational Trust. Through this work, the music curriculum has been enhanced through collaboration and has enabled all students within the trust to experience a robust and standardised quality of music education.