

Music development plan summary: Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls

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 Collet
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Michelle Lucas
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Education Partnership
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Services for Education – Music Service.

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.

Year 7 (weekly lesson of one hour) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pulse, Rhythm and the Elements of Music• Keyboard skills and scales• The Orchestra and Programme Music• Pentatonic Pieces• Medieval Music• Music in Marketing
Year 8 (weekly lesson of one hour) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music from Latin America• Fanfares

- Blues (conventions, processes and song-writing)
- Variations
- Arrangements
- Reggae

Year 9 (fortnightly lesson of one hour)

- Song writing
- Jazz improvisation and composition
- South Asia Sounds (raga)
- Self-directed project

Year 10 (Edexcel GCSE Music – 5 hours per fortnight)

- Developing performance skills and practice recordings for solo and ensemble performance
- Free composition
- Appraising: set works (Purcell, Queen, John Williams, Stephen Schwarz, Bach, Beethoven)

Year 11 (Edexcel GCSE Music – 5 hours per fortnight)

- Solo and ensemble final recordings
- Set brief composition
- Appraising: set works (Afro-Celt Sound System, Esperanza Spalding, unfamiliar listening practice, comparison pieces and exercises for all eight set works)

Year 12 (Edexcel A level Music 5 hours per week)

- Developing performance skills and practice recordings for solo recital
- Composition – western tonal harmony and Bach chorales, as well as exercises to develop free composition skills
- Appraising – seven of the set pieces analysed and comparisons made to unfamiliar pieces.

Year 13 (Edexcel A level Music 5 hours per week)

- Developing performance skills and practice recordings, final 8-minute recital in March of Year 13
- Composition – free composition completion, Bach chorales in readiness for examination in May of Year 13

- Appraising – remaining six of the set pieces analysed and comparisons made to unfamiliar pieces.

Instrumental Examinations

Many students are entered for instrumental and singing examinations on an individual basis by Services for Education peripatetic teachers (ABRSM, Trinity, LCM, RSL).

School works in close partnership with The Birmingham Music Education Partnership (led by S4E). Workshops have been provided in recent years by:

- singer songwriter Louise Jordan (HerStories) June 2024
- careers in the Music Industry (professional violinist Sally Minchin), online workshop in composing from Francis Faux (games music composer and lecturer at University of Bath)
- Apollo orchestra (Charitable foundation for music education – offering facilities for some rehearsals and loan of equipment, several of our students play in the group)
- City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, annual KS3 concert attended by the entire Year 7, also biannual secondary music training run in conjunction with BCU
- Attendance at the annual Birmingham Music Teachers' Education conference, run by Services for Education in conjunction with Dr Anthony Anderson (Associate Professor in Music Education, Birmingham City University). Focus on curriculum design at KS3 and developing composition skills
- Attendance at a keynote speech by Chris Stevens (Ofsted Lead Music Inspector), January 2024
- Links to ABRSM through music teacher Emily Stamoulis who splits her time between Sutton and ABRSM as an examiner (to FRSM level, able to coach performances to postgraduate standard)
- Links with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. 4th Year undergraduate BMus student Nathaniel Leighton to work with school's brass group as part of his final degree Major Project, who are then invited to participate in concert at the college on 28th March 2025 alongside Conservatoire Brass Band and Birmingham Citadel Salvation Army Band.

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.

Instrumental and Singing lessons are offered through Services for Education – Music Service. Over 200 students benefit from weekly lessons. Lessons are subsidised by school. Parents are asked for an annual contribution **which depend on the instrument they are learning**. Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium receive full funding.

Lessons are offered in:

- brass (trumpet, French horn, tenor horn, trombone, euphonium, baritone, tuba),
- violin,
- viola,
- cello,
- double bass
- clarinet,
- flute,
- oboe,
- bassoon,
- recorder
- orchestral percussion,
- drumkit,
- saxophone,
- guitar,
- singing,
- sitar and tabla.

The majority of lessons are in pairs and last 20 minutes. There are a guaranteed minimum of 28 lessons in the academic year.

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.

Trips

- All Year 7 students attended a KS3 concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra which is part of Project 3 (The Orchestra) February 2025. The vast majority of this trip is covered by the school, a small charge for travel is requested (£2), support available for FSM students.
- GCSE Music students from Year 10 and 11 attend a trip to see The Afro Celt Sound System who perform one of the GCSE Music set works, *Release*, in October 2024. Costs are covered by students/parents and those receiving Free School Meals can request financial support.

- Targeted vocalists from Year 11 have the opportunity to attend choral scholars' open day at Merton College Oxford February 2025.

A weekly extra-curricular programme includes:

- Chamber Choir (for students wanting to sing harder repertoire from notation)
- Gospel Choir (open to all)
- String ensemble (beginner to approx. Gd 3)
- Brass ensemble
- Sinfonia (approx. Gd 3 upwards)
- Clarinet ensemble
- Flute ensemble
- Swing Band
- Saxophone ensemble
- Rock Band
- An annual musical in conjunction with the Drama department.

In addition, many students are involved in ensembles run by partners in The Birmingham Music Education Partnership and others including:

- Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra
- Birmingham Schools' Brass Band
- Birmingham Schools' Training Brass Band
- Birmingham Schools' Wind Orchestra
- CBSO Youth Chorus
- Ex Cathedra
- CBSO Youth Orchestra
- Apollo Youth Orchestra
- The Singing Community of Choirs
- CBSO Project Remix
- Walsall Music Hub Jazz ensembles
- Local musical societies including The Manor Musical Theatre Company

Annual Performance Opportunities in school include:

- Christmas Concert (December)
- Production (March) – *Annie* in March 2024 involved around 160 students, *Frozen JR* in March 2025.
- Spring Concert (April)
- Soloists' Concert (June)

Other performance opportunities may take place from time to time including trips to perform to residents in care homes in the final week before Christmas (2023), Good Hope Hospital (2024), open evenings etc.

In the future

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

- Continue to stay abreast of changes to KS4 and KS5 examined courses
- Investigate more external performance opportunities and competitions (e.g. Lichfield Festival)
- Year 9, 2025 onwards to increase music lessons to 2 per fortnight.

Further information (optional)