

# Music development plan summary: Hitchin Boys' School



## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	November 2025
Name of the school music lead	Hannah Strachan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Phil Dawson
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	In Consortium with Hitchin Girls' School/ The Priory School

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 curriculum maps for KS3 Music are published on the school website and are available via these links:**

[Year 7 Curriculum Map](#)

[Year 8 Curriculum Map](#)

[Year 9 Curriculum Map](#)

**Information about GCSE and A Level Music is available via these links:**

[GCSE Music information](#)

[Sixth Form Prospectus link](#)

**Information on taught hours of Music at KS3:**

Year 7 – have three hours of Music a fortnight.

Year 8 and 9- have two hours of Music a fortnight.

Our Music classrooms are inclusive and our approach to teaching Music is Quality First Teaching for all students. Some SEND needs suggest a priority for practice rooms during lesson time (e.g. sensory issues.) and these needs are catered for as much as possible.

**Information on our Music Curriculum-** Our curriculum is based on the National Curriculum guidance for Music. Up to date Music Educator research is incorporated into our Curriculum, for example we have incorporated units at KS3 that attempt to decolonise the Music Curriculum and make it more accessible and relatable to all students.

In year 7, we introduce a number of basic concepts and as students move through year 7 and into years 8 and 9, these concepts are applied to different topics so that students can practise the 3 main skills of performing, composing and appraising in a range of contexts.

**Opportunities for instrument use in lesson time at KS3:**

In Year 7, we teach whole class keyboard skills.

In Year 7, we teach whole class singing skills.

In Years 8 & 9, we teach whole class ukulele skills.

We also have a range of guitars and percussion that can be used, depending on the project students are doing and students who play an instrument are encouraged to use it, when appropriate.

KS4 and KS5 students use their own instruments during class time.

**Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS) access to resources-** We use the “Sing Up” website which has songwriting materials at KS3 and KS4. We have also used the Songwriting IEMusic workshop provided by HMS as well as “Focus on Sound”, an online resource and NoteFlight, our notation software.

**Music gradings available:** Instrumental- Grades 1-8 and Grade 5 theory piano.

**KS4 and KS5 course available for study:**

GCSE - Edexcel

A Level - Edexcel

Consortium Music - BTEC in Music Performance

BTEC Music Technology (Sound Engineering)

## 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.

### **The peripatetic music lessons that are available to students at Hitchin Boys' School, include:**

Piano  
Upper Brass  
Lower Brass  
Saxophone  
Clarinet  
Electric Guitar  
Bass Guitar  
Classical Guitar  
Drum Kit  
Upper Strings  
Voice

At present, all our peripatetic tuition is one to one, but we do on occasion offer group lessons.

**Remission for Music lessons** - 30 minute lesson is £26 per lesson

20 minute lesson is £17.70 per lesson

For students taking GCSE, A Level or BTEC Music performance, they get 50% remission and only if they are taught in school or at HMS. This stops in the Spring term of the year of certification.

PP students pay a £21 administration fee and then they can apply to Hertfordshire Music service for remission, although this money does tend to run out. In exceptional circumstances, the school can use PP money to cover these costs.

When families are in need of financial support and none is available, we refer them to third parties e.g. Hitchin Youth Trust and we have successfully secured funding for some students after doing this.

### **The ensembles available to students at Hitchin Boys' School include:**

Junior Choir  
Chamber Choir

Full Choir

Jazz Band

String Group

Brass Group

Funk Band

Orchestra

Saxophone Group

Rock Band

Clarinet Group

Percussion Group

Classical Guitar Group

Barbershop Group

Blues Band

School Production

Most ensembles are open to all students who are musically literate and can play an instrument, with one or two advanced ensembles being invitation only.

Some ensembles are run by peripatetic staff and the cost of this is covered through a combination of school budget allocation and a small amount from instrumental fees.

We have six practice rooms that can be booked through Music staff for use at lunch time.

**Other forms of Music making available for students to participate in:** Community concerts (e.g. Care home tours and Comic Relief) Music Masterclasses and Music Competition, Carol Service, Founders' Day, Concerts, Recitals, Open Evening, Assemblies, Celebration Evening and The Priory Picnic.

**Support for exams:** GCSE exam prep sessions outside of teaching time.

**Instrument loans-** Some students borrow their instruments from school and some students borrow from HMS by arrangement.

**Saturday Music School:** Many students attend Saturday Morning Music School or evening ensembles run by HMS, including County ensembles and some students are in National ensembles. We also have some students who attend Junior Conservatoires.

## 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.

Music students are invited to perform in the Autumn, Spring and Summer concerts as well as a solo recital in the summer term.

This year (2024-2025) we have introduced singing to the Year 7 SoL and are offering opportunities for the entire year group to sing together twice in the autumn term.

We have an annual school production where the band is made up of invited students who play in an ensemble with members of staff. Students who have lead roles often arrange to have singing lessons because of their involvement in the show. This is a paid for ticketed event which family and friends are invited to.

This year (2024-2025) we aim to encourage more students to play their instruments in Year Group assemblies.

Every November, The Last Post is played by a student in our Remembrance Assembly.

On Open Evening, a “rolling concert” and an open rehearsal is run to show prospective students what the Music Department at Hitchin Boys’ School can offer them.

In the Summer of 2024, Kidenza Orchestra visited the school and played for Year 7 and 8 students as well as prospective GCSE students from Year 9 and GCSE and A Level students, who also got a chance to play with the professional orchestra. This was paid for by the students and subsidised where required for students in receipt of Pupil Premium.

We host an annual Music Competition where all students can take part in their category, and we usually invite a local musician or composer in to judge the competition and give awards. Students pay £1 to enter and this money goes towards the Music Department budget.

We perform annually in four Christmas Carol services at a local church in Hitchin, St Mary’s, and we take students to local Care Homes to perform for residents.

At Celebration evening in the Autumn term, Grade 6 and above pianists are invited to play for the audience.

KS4 Music students see the show Wicked in the West End on a bi-annual basis as “Defying Gravity” is a set work. This is paid for by the students and subsidised for Pupil Premium students where required.

Students are also invited to perform at the annual Priory Picnic in the centre of Hitchin in the summer.

## In the future

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

In curriculum music, we plan to improve the KS3 offering by introducing a songwriting unit in Year 9 this year. This will enable us to introduce year 9 to using a DAW in the autumn term, so that they can use it in some of the projects in the remainder of the year.

We continue to investigate ways to make Music more inclusive and to decolonise our curriculum.

As listed in the body of this document, we already abide by the 7 features of high-quality music provision listed below but will continue to offer opportunities and experiences for our young people to be involved in Music in a variety of ways.

### **The seven features of high-quality music provision:**

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stage 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

## Further information

Further information from Hertfordshire Music Service:

<https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/hertfordshire-music-service.aspx>

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.