

Music development plan summary: Madeley Academy

Introduction

The overall vision for the Music department is to provide opportunities for students to develop their knowledge, confidence and creativity through discovering, sharing and engaging in a variety of musical experiences. We strive for our students to become inquisitive, imaginative and independent learners with a broad knowledge of different musical genres and the skills to communicate and express themselves positively.

We understand the importance of students actively engaging with cultural identity and personal expression in order to facilitate their understanding of their community and wider society, enabling students to define themselves in relation to others, and the society in which they live. Developing students' cultural capital is at the heart of what we deliver in Music and this encompasses learning in about culture in a variety of ways, from introducing students to the works of great composers to instilling an appreciation of how to conduct themselves during a performance.

We are therefore committed to delivering a varied curriculum that is accessible to all; supporting and challenging our students in a variety of ways to be proud of who they are and celebrate what they can achieve.

Alongside a focus on supporting and nurturing personal development, our curriculum also develops other valuable competencies such as team work, analysis, independent working, physical coordination skills, comparative writing and creative thinking; all of which are highly valuable assets to students as they progress through to the next stages of their musical education, as well as to employers and higher institutions.

Our music curriculum has been carefully sequenced to give all students the opportunity to build and develop skills and knowledge across the units. Key language is revisited across different modules and students are able to build on prior concepts, knowledge and skills as they progress through these, which reduces cognitive load and develops a deeper understanding. We aim to build on the knowledge learned in the previous key stage through revising, embedding and extending key concepts to provide our students with the knowledge and skills required to underpin the next key stage.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	18/09/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	17/09/2027
Name of the school music lead	Karen Chambers
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lyndsay Timmins
Name of local music hub	Telford and Wrekin Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	The Music Partnership

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

Curriculum Music at Madeley Academy is taught to every pupil in Key Stage 3 as part of Performing Arts lessons, which cover both Music and Drama. Music lessons are delivered in 4 out of the 6 half terms in each year and cover a wide range of topics, allowing students to develop their performing skills through practical work; explore composing skills through creative tasks and broaden their understanding and appreciation of a wide range of musical styles through listening. Students have access to a full suite of keyboards and are taught keyboard skills across Years 7,8 and 9 as part of whole class instrumental tuition. Our practice rooms offer space for students to explore their ensemble skills practically, with a wide range of string instruments, drum kits, tuned and untuned percussion, pianos and guitars available to enhance their practical music-making experiences.

In Key Stage 3 Music lessons, students explore essential key language through understanding the elements of music. This topic paves the way for students to continue their music education into Key Stage 4 and beyond through an ability to describe music using appropriate technical language. Other Key Stage 3 topics continue to build on listening and appraising skills, with opportunities for students to discover and engage with a wide range of different styles of music from around the world and across the ages. Topics are designed for students to develop their practical music-making skills also, to include singing and ensemble performance tasks.

Students are taught to understand and decode traditional staff notation and to learn to play a musical instrument from notation. Our fully equipped Music Tech suite is complete with a whole class set of electronic keyboards that are each linked to music-specific software on computers, enabling the students to access music notation and sequencing programs such as Sibelius and BandLab. Topics in Key Stage 3 are all designed to build skills and knowledge that are essential for progression in GCSE Music.

The Schemes of work ensure a full coverage of the National Curriculum requirements, which are embedded across the curriculum and are designed with three pathways for the students to follow, catering for different ability levels within each class. Our Music curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021)

In Key Stage 4 students have the option to take GCSE Music. Curriculum time for Key Stage 4 students is 3 hours per week, further developing their performing, composing and appraising skills and working towards the Eduqas GCSE Music qualification.

In Key Stage 4 Music, students build a full and broad knowledge and skill base across the three disciplines – performing, composing and appraising – to prepare them for the demands of assessment. Through regular ensemble and solo practice as well as access to peripatetic and/or targeted teacher support, GCSE Music students are able to develop and build confidence in performance and composition skills. Students also have the opportunity to perform in regular Academy showcase performances, which further enriches their musical experiences. The study of set works allows students to broaden their understanding of the world through discussion and analysis of a wide range of different styles, traditions and cultures, helping them to develop their evaluative skills.

All curriculum music lessons at Madeley Academy are designed to be accessible for all students and are fully inclusive. The curriculum is carefully planned to ensure that the diverse needs of different groups of students are catered for and this is reflected in the Schemes of Work and in lesson planning through differentiated activities and pathways – focused, enriched and extended. Students' communication passports are used to inform the planning, ensuring that each student receives a personalised pathway to success at all stages of their Musical education.

Part B: Extra-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.

Private Instrumental/Vocal Tuition

In addition to curriculum music lessons, all students at Madeley Academy are given the opportunity to pursue instrumental tuition as an extra enhancement of their music studies. All students are eligible to apply for this and every effort will be made to ensure that appropriate provision is put in place wherever possible to support each student in their musical education.

We are very fortunate to have a core team of highly talented and dedicated peripatetic instrumental teachers at Madeley Academy, who are committed to providing the very best musical education for our students. We currently offer private tuition in:

- Piano
- Keyboard,
- Singing
- Guitar
- Bass
- Drum kit

Lessons take place during the school day, following a 2-week alternating timetable to minimise disruption to curriculum lessons. Lessons are one-to-one and last for 20 minutes.

The cost of these lessons is £10 each, or £100 per term, paid in advance, with 10 lessons in each term.

For students in receipt of free school meals, the cost of lessons is subsidised by the school, with all eligible students receiving a discount of 50%, or £50 per term.

Pupil Premium funding can be applied in special circumstances to support looked-after children, where the lessons are fully subsidised by the school.

After School Clubs

We offer a varied programme of Session 3 activities for our students to broaden their experiences in Music. These sessions run from 3:15 until 4pm and are free for all students to attend.

- **Musical Theatre Club** – a club for students with an interest in singing, dancing and acting to join an ensemble and work together to learn, rehearse and perform musical theatre pieces, culminating in live performances in front of an audience.
- **Music Club** – a club for students of all abilities to make music together. Students can make use of our musical instruments rehearsal spaces to practise their instruments, form bands or experiment with music-making in different ways.

- **Singing Club** – a club for students who love to sing as part of a choir, offering an opportunity to build confidence in singing in harmony and in performing in front of an audience.
- **GCSE Music intervention/support** – a club that specifically supports the performing, composing and appraising work required for GCSE Music and an opportunity for GCSE students to improve their coursework independently or with guided support.

Part C: Musical events

In addition to our extensive extra-curricular programme, students have the opportunity to take part in concerts/showcase events to hone their talents and perform in front of a live audience. Every year we hold two Arts Nights events, one near Christmas and one towards the end of the Summer term. Students showcase their work in Performing Arts from over the past year, with a wide range of performances coming from our Session 3 activities such as musical theatre club and singing club.

Parents, carers and friends of the performers are invited to buy tickets and the events are always a great success, providing a benchmark for the high standard of talent on show and creating an event for aspiring musicians to aim towards.

In some years we run a school show. This usually takes the form of a junior production of a well-known musical (such as 'Mary Poppins' or 'The Wizard of Oz') and offers students a wonderful opportunity to get involved in a company and to experience the whole process of Musical Theatre production from start to finish.

Some of our Session 3 groups have the opportunity to perform in other events too – our singing club is often asked to perform to local residents around Christmas time and they have previously performed at local Primary Schools as well.

As part of a wider Multi-Academy Trust, there are some inter-Academy events that our students can get involved with, such as the Arts festival, in which selected students are invited to perform to other schools in the Trust, sharing practice and celebrating achievements.

Trips are organised each year to see at least one musical or professional concert. These are often tied into GCSE Music studies but usually involve other students with appreciation of the Arts and offer a wonderful cultural experience for all. Our most recent trips were 'Wicked' and 'Blood Brothers'.

In the future

Plans for the future include:

- Developing our Key Stage 3 curriculum to include a broader range of instrumental / performance skills such as ukulele.
- Increasing our private instrumental tuition provision to cover woodwind, brass and strings
- Building up the size and strength of the singing club/choir
- Running school productions more frequently

Further information (optional)

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.

Parents and young people in Telford and Wrekin might also wish to look at services/events offered locally, through [Telford & Wrekin Music](#).