

Music development plan summary: Stopsley High School

Overview

| Detail | Information |
|--|------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025 - 26 |
| Date this summary was published | 17/07/25 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | 01/07/2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Eilish Coppinger |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Emily Hardy |
| Name of local music hub | Luton |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Totally Rad |

Part A: Curriculum music

At Stopsley High School our inclusive music curriculum aims to provide all students, regardless of their background, ability, or identity, with equal access to meaningful musical experiences. It seeks to foster a diverse and welcoming environment where every learner can engage, express themselves, and develop their musical skills. By embracing various genres, cultures, and learning styles, the curriculum encourages creativity, promotes cultural awareness, and ensures that all students feel valued and empowered through music.

Every KS3 music class receives 150 minutes music tuition per timetable cycle (2 weeks) split into two lessons; 1 double, 100 mins and 1 single, 50 minutes.

Music is then offered as an option for KS4 in which students can study for their music GCSE.

During their curriculum time students develop skills in performing, composing, listening and analysis. Our Stopsley Curriculum is influenced by the Model Music Curriculum with our overall intention of:

- Fostering a love for music, creativity, and expression.
- Building strong technical and theoretical foundations.
- Encouraging collaboration, performance, and critical listening skills.
- Provide a broad understanding of diverse musical styles and cultures.

[Key Stage 3 Curriculum Map](#)

Year 7: Foundations of Music

- **Key Knowledge:**
 - Introduction to musical elements: pitch, rhythm, dynamics, timbre, texture, and form.
 - Basic music notation and understanding of standard symbols.
 - Exploration of different musical genres (e.g., classical, pop, world music).
 - Introduction to a range of instruments including basic percussion, pitched percussion, keyboard and Ukulele as well as vocal work.
 - Understanding musical terminology (e.g., tempo, dynamics, structure, texture).
 - **Key Skills:**
 - Ability to read and write simple treble clef musical notation.
 - Perform basic rhythms and melodies on keyboard and percussion instruments.
 - Listen critically to music, identifying key elements (e.g. structure, tempo).
 - Work collaboratively in small groups for performance-based tasks.
 - Begin composing simple pieces and writing them using musical notation.
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Year 8: Developing Musical Skills

- **Key Knowledge:**
 - In-depth exploration of musical structures (e.g., Ground bass, 12-bar Blues, verse-chorus form, binary, ternary).
 - Understanding of harmony, chords, and basic music theory (e.g., major and minor scales).
 - Study of different musical styles and cultures, including their historical context (blues, reggae).
 - Exploration of vocal and instrumental techniques (e.g., playing in an ensemble, singing in parts).
 - Introduction to music history and key composers/artists.
- **Key Skills:**
 - Develop a greater understanding of harmony and chord progressions.
 - Perform more complex rhythms and harmonies, both individually and in groups.
 - Compose short musical phrases and simple arrangements.
 - Participate in ensemble work, improving listening and teamwork skills.
 - Understand features of different eras of music

Year 9: Advanced Musical Understanding and Creation

- **Key Knowledge:**
 - Deeper understanding of music theory, including key signatures, time signatures, and more complex rhythms.
 - Study of manipulating music elements to create mood and atmosphere.
 - Understanding of musical expression, including dynamics, phrasing, and articulation.
 - **Key Skills:**
 - Perform more challenging pieces, with focus on expression, accuracy, and musicality.
 - Develop advanced composition skills, using a variety of instruments.
 - Engage in group performances, demonstrating leadership and coordination.
 - Analyse and critique music, identifying key features such as texture, instrumentation, and style.
 - Continue developing knowledge of music theory, applying it to both performance and composition.
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KS4: GCSE Music - Eduqas

The Eduqas music GCSE course encourages an integrated approach to the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising through four interrelated areas of study. The four areas of study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles in a wider context. The Western Classical Tradition forms the basis of Musical Forms and Devices (area of study 1), and learners should take the opportunity to explore these forms and devices further in the other three areas of study. Music for Ensemble (area of study 2) allows learners to look more closely at texture and sonority. Film Music (area of study 3) and Popular Music (area of study 4) provide an opportunity to look at contrasting styles and genres of music.

Key Skills Developed:

- Performance skills and confidence.
- Creative composition techniques.
- Critical listening and analytical abilities.
- Broad understanding of musical styles and historical contexts.

Performance (30%)

- **Solo Performance:** Students perform a piece of their choice, showcasing technical skill and musical expression.
- **Ensemble Performance:** Students perform as part of a group, demonstrating collaborative and ensemble skills.
- **Assessment:** Recorded performance (approximately 4-6 minutes total).

2. Composition (30%)

- **Composition 1 (Free Composition):** Students compose an original piece of music in any style or genre.
- **Composition 2 (Composition to a Brief):** Students compose music based on a set brief provided by the exam board.

- **Assessment:** Submitted compositions (2 pieces, with accompanying written scores/notations).

3. Appraising (40%)

- **Listening and Analysis:** Students study and analyse a wide range of music from different genres and historical periods.
- **Set Works:** In-depth study of 2 set works, one each from area of study 1 and 4 of the course.
- **Areas of Study:**
 - **Musical Forms & Devices**
 - **Music for Ensemble**
 - **Film Music**
 - **Popular Music**
- **Assessment:** Written exam (1 hour 15 minutes), requiring students to identify musical features and contexts.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Stopsley High School is working with the Luton music service who is providing opportunities for guitar and violin lessons. We have also recently started a partnership with Totally Rad who will help us provide more opportunities for 1-1 and small group instrumental and vocal tuition.

Extracurricular music clubs being offered this academic year include:

- Show Rehearsal - We are working together with the drama and dance departments to stage a whole school musical. We have chosen Legally Blonde Jr this year, and look forward to performing this in December 2025
- Choir - All year groups are invited to come along and learn songs in 2 and 3 part arrangements.
- Keyboard Club - Students are encouraged to attend and work on music for their lessons, or practice anything they are working on in their own free time. We will put together a keyboard ensemble piece to be recorded in the summer term.
- Production Club - Students learn how to create a song from scratch, from writing all the way up to production and recording.

These clubs are open to all year groups.

We host regular showcases where students are invited to attend and perform any pieces they have been rehearsing as part of an extracurricular club, or in their own time. These are a mixture of music only events, and events with the rest of the performing arts team.

Part C: Musical experiences

At Stopsley offer a number of extra-curricular performance experiences including;

- Whole school musical
- Showcase performance evenings
- GCSE performance evenings

The GCSE performance evening is aimed at year 11 music students but all other performances are offered to all students.

The whole school musical is ticketed but all other events are free for friends and family to support.

In the future

We are hoping to expand and develop our partnership with Totally Rad as well as looking into the possibility of borrowing instruments from the music service to offer students taster lessons in orchestral instruments. As we look to expand what musical experiences we offer our students we hope to introduce a school wind/concert band.

We would also like to be able to offer our students more opportunities to see live music, whether that be in school or externally.

Further information (optional)

[Luton Music Service](#) : Currently provide us with Guitar and Violin tutors. Please enquire with them if you have another instrument you would like to learn

[Totally Rad Music](#): Provides small group and 1-2-1 instrumental lessons, predominantly piano lessons at the moment. Please get in touch with them if you would like to learn another instrument, enquiries for drum lessons are being taken through this Website at the moment.