

Music development plan summary: *Maiden Erlegh School*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jennie Pitman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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

At key stage 3, Year 7 and 8 students have one lesson of music per week.

By the end of Key Stage 3 should the students be able to:

- Understand and manipulate the Elements of Music
- Have developed their keyboard skills
- Perform on a variety of instruments and sing with confidence both individually and as part of a group
- Compose in a variety of styles
- Listen to a wide variety of music and identify the musical features

- Appraise their own work and the work of other students

We cover a wide and diverse range of topics including:

Year 7

- Elements of Music
- Keyboard Skills
- Medieval Music
- Programme Music, including instruments of the orchestra
- Calypso Music
- Battle of the Bands

Year 8

- The Blues
- Brit Pop
- Film Music
- Reggae Music
- Samba Music

In all topics, students regularly sing and perform on instruments within that style as well as listening to a wide variety of music within that topic.

Key Stage 4

GCSE Music (years 9-11)

At Key Stage 4 we study the Edexcel GCSE Music specification, and students have two hours of Music a week. The course contains three components:

- Performing - as a soloist and part of an ensemble (30%)
- Composing – students write two compositions (30%)
- Listening and Appraising – students study a variety of styles and genres of music through 8 set works which they are examined on (40%). This includes instrumental music, vocal music, music for stage and screen and fusions.

Students enjoy practically exploring the set works as well as working on their own performances and compositions in lesson time.

BTEC Performing Arts (years 9-11)

At Key Stage 4 we study the Edexcel BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts and student have two hours of Performing Arts a week. The course contains three components:

- Exploring the Performing Arts – students will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining the work of performing arts professionals and the processes used to create performance. (30%)

- Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts – students will develop their performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting, dance and/or musical theatre repertoire as performers or designers. (30%)
- Responding to a Brief - students will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance as either a performer or a designer in response to a brief and stimulus. (40%)

Key Stage 5

A-Level Music

At key stage 5 we study the Eduqas A-level music specification and have four hours of Music a week. Like the GCSE, the course contains three components:

Students can choose either option A where they specialise in performance or option B where they specialise more in composition.

Component 1: Performing

Option A: Performing (35%)

- A minimum of 3 pieces
- 10–12 minute recital
- One piece must be as a soloist, other pieces can be as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble

OR

Option B: Performing (25%)

- A minimum of 2 pieces
- 6-8 minute recital
- As a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble

Component 2: Composing

Option A: Composing (25%)

- 2 compositions lasting 4-6 minutes
- 1 composition based on the Western Classical Tradition in response to a brief
- 1 free composition

OR

Option B: Composing (35%)

- 3 compositions lasting 8-12 minutes
- 1 composition based on the Western Classical Tradition in response to a brief
- 1 composition based on a different area of study
- 1 free composition

Component 3: Appraising (40%)

- 2 hours & 15-minute exam
- Questions are based on 3 areas of study
- Compulsory area of study – The Western Classical Tradition (the development of the symphony)
- One area of study from: Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz

One area of study from: Into the 20th Century or Into the 21st Century

SEND

At all Key Stages adaptations are made where necessary for students with SEND which range from differentiating resources to providing specific equipment, adaptation or technology to ensure music is accessible to all.

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 Vocal lessons

We have a partnership with Berkshire Music Trust who provide lessons on a one-to-one and small-group tuition on the following instruments:

- Flute
- Clarinet and Saxophone
- Piano
- Singing
- Drum kit and Percussion
- Violin
- Trumpet, Trombone and Horn (tenor or baritone)

Their website with details of fees and how to apply can be found at:

<https://www.berksmusictrust.org.uk/>

We also have a private Guitar and Piano tutor. More details can be found by contacting Miss Pitman via the school office.

All instrumental and vocal lessons take place before or after school.

Fee Assistance

Berkshire Music Trust offer some fee assistance options for:

- Pupil Premium

- SEND
- Tax credits/Income support
- Looked After Children and Asylum Seekers

Please see their website for more details:

<https://www.berksmusictrust.org.uk/music/music-lessons/help-with-fees/>

Maiden Erlegh School may also be able to offer further fee assistance for Pupil Premium students.

Instrument Hire

Berkshire Music Trust also offer an instrument hire scheme:

<https://www.berksmusictrust.org.uk/music/instruments/instrument-hire/>

Instrument Purchase Scheme

Maiden Erlegh School can offer the instrument purchase scheme where instruments can be purchased minus the VAT. Please see the following for more details:

<https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/page/?title=Instrument+Purchase+Scheme&pid=46>

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Music Department are proud to offer the following extra-curricular activities which take place before or after school:

- String Group (all year groups and abilities)
- Brass Group (all year groups and abilities)
- Senior Band (all year groups grade 3 and above)
- Junior Band (years 7 and 8, all abilities)
- Choir (all year groups and abilities)
- Musical Theatre Club (all year groups and abilities)
- Whole School Production with our Drama Department

Students also form their own bands and are welcome to rehearse in the Music Department after school. Students may also use the practice rooms to practice before and after school.

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.

Performance Opportunities

The Performing Arts Department hold multiple performances throughout the year:

- Winter Showcase (December)
- Whole School Production – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (February)
- GCSE and A-Level Concert (April)
- Summer Extravaganza (July)

At these concerts the extra-curricular groups perform along with a variety of solo and small group performances.

All students and their families are invited to attend the concerts and whole school production.

Trips

The Performing Arts Department organise regular trips to concerts and the theatre including:

- Wicked the Musical in London (for GCSE Music and BTEC Performing Arts students)
- Key Stage 3 trip to a musical
- Royal Philharmonic Orchestra concert at the Hexagon (for GCSE Music students)
- Theatre performance (musical or play) in London (for BTEC Performing Arts students)

Other Opportunities

Members of the Choir and Senior Band perform to the whole school at the end of term assemblies.

In the future

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

Our aim this year is to maintain the high standards of music provision throughout the school.

We would also like to investigate opportunities to work with Berkshire Music Trust and other music organisations to provide performances for the students.