

## Overview

DETAIL	INFORMATION
Academic year that this plan covers	2024-25
Date this plan was published	27/07/24
Date this summary will be reviewed	27/07/25
Name of the school music lead	Mr Declan McKeever
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Tom McDonnell Mr Sean McAlinden
Name of local music hub	Hounslow Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	University of West London, London College of Music, Royal Academy of Music

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils focusing on three key aspects - curriculum music, extra-curricular provision and musical experiences - as well as the changes we are planning for the next academic year. This information is to help pupils and parents / carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support music education at Isleworth & Syon School.

## Section 1: Curriculum Music

This section refers to what we teach in lesson time, the scheduled lesson time for music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve. At Isleworth & Syon School all academic lessons are one hour in duration. All students in Year 7 and 8 receive one hour per week of curriculum music. In Year 9, we offer a mini-option (where students select 2 from 4 arts subjects and undertake 2 hours of lessons on their preferred option each week). To summarise, our Key Stage 3 curriculum is structured as follows:

YEAR 7					
AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
<b>Pulse &amp; Rhythm</b> This unit introduces pupils to the importance of pulse and rhythm as a fundamental upon which music is built and performed.	<b>Voiceworks</b> This unit develops pupils' ability to explore the voice through singing a wide range of different types and styles of songs, developing their ability to sing music in two (or more) parts.	<b>Keyboard Skills</b> Students develop their keyboard and learn to read and write musical notation.	<b>Introduction to Sequencing</b> All students will develop skills and an understanding of sequencing and music production using Logic Pro X software	<b>British Folk Music</b> Students study and perform traditional music from the British Isles and explore how it has influenced modern music	<b>Pentatonic</b> All students explore the pentatonic scale and compose original pieces in a number of styles.
<b>Assessment</b> Performance, composition and listening assessments using a range of classroom instruments.	<b>Assessment</b> Practical assessments in singing with a range of written listening and appraising tasks	<b>Assessment</b> Students will perform a number of levelled keyboard pieces which demonstrate their progress in keyboard skills and	<b>Assessment</b> Students are assessed through a series of music production activities in addition to a key terms assessment	<b>Assessment</b> Practical assessments using voice and acoustic instruments. Summative key terms assessment.	<b>Assessment</b> Students are assessed on their progression throughout several lessons on keyboards and tuned percussion.

		in accessing notated music.			
YEAR 8					
AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
<b>Ostinato</b> Focuses on how composers combine ranges and patterns of notes to create an intended outcome.	<b>Space Music</b> Students explore chromaticism and timbres used to create atmospheric music.	<b>The Blues</b> Students will explore the traditions of Blues Music and perform a 12 bar Blues piece as part of an ensemble.	<b>All About The Bass</b> Students explore the bass clef, bass line patterns, riffs and walking bass patterns.	<b>Riffs &amp; Rock Music</b> Explores how riffs are created and their influence on creating popular music from the 1960s onwards.	<b>Film Music</b> Introduces students to the musical devices used in film music with a particular focus on leitmotifs.
<b>Assessment</b> Performance and composition assessments using voice and classroom instruments.	<b>Assessment</b> Students will be assessed on a number of short compositions which feature chromaticism, elements and suitable timbres using music technology.	<b>Assessment</b> Practical assessments using voice and guitars. Pupils also compose their own Blues song. End of unit key terms assessment.	<b>Assessment</b> Practical assessments using double bass, bass guitar, guitar and keyboards. Summative key terms assessment.	<b>Assessment</b> Composition and performance assessments with some listening tasks. End of unit key terms assessment.	<b>Assessment</b> Practical assessments - performances and short compositions with film music characteristics using music technology.
YEAR 9					
AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
<b>4 Chords</b> This unit develops students understanding and application of chords. We also explore a GCSE set work by Queen.	<b>Video Game Music</b> Students explore character and ground themes as well as sound effects used in computer and video game music.	<b>African Drumming</b> This unit develops pupils' understanding of polyrhythmic music and African drumming techniques exploring how different polyrhythmic textures and musical conventions.	<b>The Popular Song</b> Students will explore approaches to pop and rock songwriting, looking in particular at the music of The Beatles. Covers key signature, harmony, structure and lyric writing.	<b>Fusion</b> Students explore fusion music from around the world to prepare them for GCSE Music set work study.	<b>Song Production</b> Students will synthesize all they have learned in music at KS3 in a final composition and performance task, the parameters of which they will set themselves.
<b>Assessment</b> Listening and Appraising tasks with a range of performance challenges. End of unit key terms assessment.	<b>Assessment</b> Composition and performance assessments with some listening tasks using Logic Pro X. End of unit key terms assessment.	<b>Assessment</b> Practical assessment in an ensemble and small group composition tasks. End of unit key terms assessment.	<b>Assessment</b> Practical assessment using GCSE assessment criteria for solo and ensemble performances.	<b>Assessment</b> Listening and Appraising tasks with a range of composition challenges. End of unit key terms assessment.	<b>Assessment</b> Composition and arrangement assessments with some listening tasks. End of unit key terms assessment.

As well as frequent class singing opportunities, our students have access to a range of instruments including tuned and untuned percussion, piano, acoustic, electric and bass guitars, acoustic and electronic drum kits, for whole-class music-making.

We currently have around 10% of students who learn an instrument both in and out of school time. Lessons are provided by peripatetic teaching staff from Hounslow Music Service covering the popular instruments plus a range of instruments from the main orchestral families. Students have access to external exams (ABRSM, Trinity & Rock School) in addition to Grade 5 Music exam qualifications.

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We make music making a key attribute in all of our lessons across KS3-5. All units that we teach across all key stages have a performance element, as well as developing the key skills of composition. We have two teaching classrooms: one is an iMac suite running Logic Pro X and Sibelius (where we focus on creative music-making and analysis) and a live room where we focus on live music-making and collaboration. Although we do not follow the content of the model music curriculum in detail, our schemes of work do adhere to its outlines in terms of key musical skills and experiences. We deliver the Edexcel specification at GCSE and the RSL Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners in 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

The allocation of class time at KS4/5 is as follows:

- **Key Stage 4**

three hours per week for analysis, performance and composition. Students perform in termly recitals, record and submit coursework drafts regularly for both performance and composition challenges and participate in whole-school performance opportunities such as the Winter Concert and the Summer Arts Festival. Assessment of the three modules is divided up as follows:

- 30% performance
- 30% composition
- 40% final written exam (appraising & analysis)

Performance and composition coursework are submitted and marked internally and moderated externally. The final written exam takes place in June of Year 11.

- **Key Stage 5**

5 hours per week. Students study the RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners (worth 1.5 A Levels). This course gives students access to real-life music industry skill and knowledge development. It is 100% coursework portfolio evidence, with scheduled units as follows:

- Autumn Y12: MUSPRA 303(a) Arranging Music (Applications) (OPTION)
- Spring Y12: MUSPRA 349 Planning for a Career in Music (CORE)
- Summer Y12: MUSPRA 308 Composing for Interactive Media (OPTION)
- Autumn Y13: MUSPRA 369 Digital Recording & Production (OPTION)
- Spring Y13: MUSPRA 390e Composing Styles & Music Sequencing (EXTERNAL CORE)

There is no final written exam.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

We partner with a number of local organisations and institutions to ensure our students have access to high-quality music opportunities and experiences. We work with Hounslow Music Service to deliver music instrument lessons and host multi-school ensembles. We work with the University of West London to organise outreach sessions (music-making events, workshops and masterclasses) where our students also access a real flavour of music options in higher education. Isleworth & Syon School recently were winners of a borough-wide Battle of the Bands competition organised by UWL. We organise cross-phase music technology workshops with feeder primary schools to stimulate interest in music production among younger students in our wider community. We also have a partnership with the Royal Academy of Music with our students participating in the Young Composer Programme and the RAC Jazz Band.

## **Section 2: Extra-Curricular Music**

This section 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.

Isleworth & Syon School offers a range of musical ensemble for all abilities and musical tastes. These include I&S Jazz Band, I&S Guitar Ensemble, I&S Vocal Crew, School Production Pit Orchestra, as well as an all-inclusive house band for larger events like the Winter Concert, Spring Drama & Music Showcase and the I&S Summer Arts Festival. Groups / ensembles are open to all; aside from the school production pit band, there are no auditions. With groups catering for students of all ability levels, there is something for everyone. Isleworth & Syon Music Department features a number of practice rooms, a live room as well as a small recording studio space. Although these spaces are often utilised by visiting peripatetic staff for lessons, they are mostly used before school, at lunch times and after school for informal groups who rehearse and socialise, inspiring each other to bigger and better things. Larger group ensembles normally rehearse in the live performance classroom or in the adjacent assembly hall.

Performance opportunities include three whole-school events a year (one per term); Winter Concert; Spring Drama & Music Showcase and the Summer Arts Festival. These are open to students from all key stages and of all musical abilities. Our students provide background music and formal performances for Open Day, year and house assemblies, awards evenings and more. In collaboration with the Drama department, we compose and perform music to a professional level as a pit orchestra for the annual school production, as well as provide technical support opportunities for sound and lighting. A number of our students perform in Hounslow Music Service ensembles, who perform concerts regularly across London and on European-wide tours. We host Hounslow Music Service ensembles each Wednesday

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evening. We run regular songwriting and composition competitions, as well as run an in-house Battle of the Bands competition which feeds into the Hounslow-wide competition later in the year. As part of our house system, we offer house points as an incentive for those who attend music ensemble rehearsals either at lunch time or after school.

We have a considerable range of instruments in school which students can borrow on an ad-hoc basis. Around 130 lessons are taught each week by 6 peripatetic staff. Lessons cost £43.00 per hour (with a number of options for 20-minute and 30-minute paired and group options to suit all budgets). Payment for lessons is made via the school online shop where parents / carers can select and pay for their preferred option directly. Students who have access to PP funding can also access lessons by communicating directly with the subject leader. We timetable lessons on a rotational basis, with exam class students given preference to break, lunch and after-school options.

In addition to the music-making opportunities outlined above, the music department also organises a number of trips to London venues and institutions to give students access to musicals, concerts, recitals, higher education open days and places of musical interest.

### **Section 3: Next Steps**

Music at Isleworth & Syon School is valued and well-supported by the Co-Headteachers and Senior Leadership Team alike. Our department is highly visible with the Performing Arts Faculty (Drama & Music) reviewed as an area of excellence in a recent Challenge Partners Review. Our concerts and events are ambitious, unique and well-attended by the wider school community and stakeholders.

Looking forward, we will continue to review units of work at KS3 to ensure we are challenging our students musically and creatively. We will continue to review our provision at KS4 to ensure we are offering best-fit music pathways for students of all ability levels (both GCSE and vocational), helping them achieve their individual and collective musical goals. We will continue to equip the department with quality instruments and music technology resources to attract and inspire our students to enjoy music-making and motivate others to do the same. We plan to explore additional funding pathways to enable even more students to access music instrumental tuition, as well as embed further music industry and higher education partnerships to empower our students to consider and hopefully follow future careers in music.

For any further information about Music at Isleworth & Syon School, please contact Mr Declan McKeever (Subject Lead) at [dmckeever@isleworthsyon.org](mailto:dmckeever@isleworthsyon.org).