

# **King's Academy Easthampstead Park**

## **National Plan for Music Education Summary**

**2025-2026**



## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	Nov 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Nov 2026
Head of Department	Emma Rockall
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sami Hill as Lead Teacher and Matt Hall as Line Manager to PA.
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Kings Academy

## Part A: Curriculum music

Our KS3 Performing Arts curriculum, as published on the school website, has been designed to evoke excitement in Music. In our department we recognise the importance that the creative arts have in the life of pupils and this knowledge has guided us to form a comprehensive and exciting approach to developing all pupils' creativity building on their strengths and interests.

By the end of year 9, we look to spark an interest and passion for Music where the students are confident performers and communicators amongst their peers and our community. Through our carefully crafted Programme of Study, we look to develop their ability to be highly motivated. work independently and encompass our 'give it a go' attitude. Our KS3 curriculum has been designed to feed into our KS4 expectations and encourage the love of learning and growth mindset all performers need.

Our Music curriculum looks at a variety of styles from African Music in KS4 to Pop Covers. Throughout each unit we ensure that each lesson meets the needs of the students we are teaching. As a school we have an excellent provision for our SEND students which can be seen in our SEN policy on the website here:

<https://www.kgaeasthampstead.uk/send-and-local-offer/>.

Students have 1 x 70-minute lesson per fortnight of Music in Year 7, 8 and 9. Our Programme of Study has been created and planned around the National Curriculum for Music revisiting skills throughout the year to ensure a deep understanding and application of them can be achieved.

In Year 7 we start the year covering the basics of notation, looking at rhythm values, accuracy of pitch placement and then applying this to a solo piano performance. This leads onto a composition unit where we use this knowledge and apply it to create our own, well thought out melodies to a given stimulus. We end the year with our Battle of the Bands topic where the classes work collaboratively to create a performance for our in-house audience and judges. Students have the opportunity to sing, play the drums, bass guitars and keyboards. This allows the students to have the opportunity to learn how to use the elements of music creatively through a variety of topics from a range of musical contexts.

In Year 8 we allow the students to build on their skills further by exploring artists and their compositions to recreate their own. Our curriculum provides students with a choice in their learning and exploring other instruments including vocals, bass guitar, ukulele and drums. We dive into a variety of styles and genres allowing them to follow their passions and musical

interests. The academic year ends with a whole class performance of a variety of songs and then the opportunity to recreate this in an ensemble setting.

By the time the student's start year 9 they have chosen an instrument that they would like to explore further, working in ensembles to recreate covers of existing repertoire. We also introduce Music Technology using the software Band lab. Students explore how music and images such as video games work together to create effective symmetry in movement. Whilst they are learning this, they are able to learn the basics of the midi function's available in the DAW such as choosing instrumentation, copy and paste, loops, adding effects and automation.

Being a part of the King's Academy Group allows us to work with Music Department's across the Trust to ensure our Curriculum is up to date, broad, balanced, robust and engaging for all.

Our KS3 curriculum has been designed to feed into our KS4 expectations and encourage the love of learning and growth mindset all performers need. Should the students wish to continue on with their Music Education we study the BTEC TECH Award in Music. This allows students to obtain a Level 2 qualification at a Pass, Merit or Distinction level.

<b>Year 7</b>	Terms 1-2 (Sept - Dec)		Terms 3 - 4 (Jan - April)		Terms 5 - 6 (May-Jul)	
<b>Music</b>	<b>Tuning In</b>	Year 7 learn to perform piano music from the classical period. Students learn to read basic staff and rhythm notation.	<b>Every picture tells a story</b>	Students use all of their piano knowledge learnt in Tuning in to compose music to a given stimulus. We introduce the importance of the musical elements and how these can affect how music is interpreted.	<b>Battle of the bands</b>	Students work as an ensemble to learn, rehearse and perform pop music.

<b>Year 8</b>	Terms 1-2 (Sept - Dec)		Terms 3 - 4 (Jan - April)		Terms 5 - 6 (May-Jul)	
<b>Music</b>	<b>Film Music</b>	Students learn 4 pieces of film music. They work as an ensemble to rehearse, plan and perform.	<b>Songwriting</b>	Students work as a class to compose a piece of music using the 4 chord trick. They will look at lyric writing and how to compose a bass line to a backing beat.	<b>Musical Futures</b>	This unit allows students to further develop their performance skills to gain an understanding of how music fits together.

Year 9	Music - Musical Futures Part 1 and 2	Performing Arts - Exploring Practitioners
<i>Students learn how to:</i>	<p>Part 1: We look into learning how to read different forms of notation and use a variety of instruments to create an interpretation of a given piece of music.</p> <p>Part 2: Bringing Music Technology into the classroom ensures all students are engaged. Students will learn how to use a variety of functions including loops, fading as well as EQ to create a production piece to be proud of.</p>	<p>Students learn how to improvise and create a group performance focusing on the skills required within component 3 of the BTEC course.</p> <p>Students will take part in a number of workshops including a focused practitioner study.</p>

#### **Exam board and Specification details:**

Music - Year 10 and 11 - BTEC Tech Award in Music.

**In Year 10 Music we explore 5 influential genres/ styles of music before practically exploring them. Our research, findings and performance are collated for the examiner to show our understanding of the development of music across the decades. At the end of Year 10 we start our Component 2. This Unit focuses on the students becoming better musicians on their chosen instruments, creating technical exercise routines that allow them to make progress to showcase in front of an audience at the start of year 11. Year 11 ends with an ensemble performance of a brief given to us by the examining board.**

## **Part B: Co-curricular music**

As a department we offer our 6 practice rooms up for rehearsal every break to KS3 and lunch for KS4 Monday - Thursday. This allows students time outside of the lesson to make further progress either to work independently or as a band. We also loan out our instruments to students studying music at KS4 to allow them to continue to make progress outside of their timetabled lessons.

Currently we run a vocal group in the summer term working towards our school show as well as KS4 1:1 intervention afterschool for students who need extra support.

Beyond the written curriculum students also take part in Criss Cross Day and Global Development days where timetabled lessons are collapsed and students follow a day of planned workshops. Music often plays a leading role and this year within our Global Development Day Year 9 are looking into Rap Poetry including the context, the musical devices used and applying this to their own work.

Peripatetic music lessons are delivered by specialist instrumental teachers from Berkshire Music Trust and are designed to enhance students' musical education through individualised

or small group tuition. This offer provides opportunities for students to receive tuition in a variety of instruments, fostering a diverse and enriching learning environment.

#### Instrument Choices

- **Piano and Keyboard:** Students can learn classical and contemporary styles, focusing on technique, reading music, and performance skills.
- **Guitar:** Acoustic, electric or bass guitar lessons are available, covering a wide range of genres from classical to rock.
- **Woodwind:** Clarinet, flute and saxophone lessons focus on embouchure, breath control and ensemble playing.
- **Brass:** Trumpet, trombone, and tenor horn instruction focuses on embouchure, breath control, and ensemble playing.
- **Percussion:** Drum kit lessons cover rhythm, coordination, and reading percussion notation.
- **Voice:** Vocal lessons are tailored to individual student needs, including classical, pop, and musical theatre techniques.

#### Charging and Remissions Information

Please see [Berkshire Music Trust Fees](#) for information on the lesson types available and the cost of instrument hire.

#### Application and Support

To enrol your child for instrumental / vocal lessons at our School with Berkshire Music Trust you will need to register and sign up online using the following web address which will take you directly to the Berkshire Music trust 'Lessons' page.

<https://berksmusictrust.org.uk/music/music-lessons/apply-for-lessons/>

You will need to select the 'Lessons in school' option and then follow the instructions in order to register for lessons in school. .

Learning to play a musical instrument is a fantastic way for young people to develop confidence, self-esteem and a life-long love of music. Berkshire Music Trust provides the provision for instrumental / singing lessons at King's Academy Binfield and offers the highest quality musical education delivering instrumental and singing lessons in schools across the county.

## **Part C: Musical experiences**

Students have the opportunity to perform at one of our calendared events throughout the academic year including our BTEC Music Show, Battle of the Bands, Christmas by Candlelight and our Summer School Production.

We also carry out two trips each year to a Musical in the West End. This year we have taken over 60 students to see Wicked and Hamilton. This is open to all year groups to attend and gives students the opportunity to feel what it's like to experience a professional live show. Tickets are booked via parent pay as a first come first serve basis and advertised through our social media and parent communication tool Class Charts.

Within our own school production, we hold auditions for all year groups and include all students to be a part of the chorus allowing students to be able to have the opportunity to participate. We only charge for two shows throughout the academic year in order to recoup money for resources used. There are also concessions options available for parents should that be needed. For our other concerts we leave them free of charge.

## In the future

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

As a school we are planning to work towards:

1. 2025 - 2026- Continue to embed Music Tech into the Curriculum to support KS4 learning and progress.
2. 2024 - 2025 - Increase uptake into KS5.
3. Continue to ensure we create engaging extra curricular opportunities both inside and outside of school making sure they are inclusive to ALL students.