

THE HART SCHOOL

The Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ellen Stewart
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Charlotte Cowley
Name of local music hub	Entrust Music Service Staffordshire

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.

The music curriculum at The Hart School aims to help all children to reach their musical potential. The curriculum is the same for everyone, regardless of any disability or special educational needs, and extra support is always in place to mitigate any barriers to learning. Students in KS3 work independently, in pairs and in groups to explore a wide range of genres and instruments in order to best prepare them for BTEC Music. In KS4, students will further develop the skills they need to thrive in the music industry. In order to achieve this, the curriculum focuses on three main strands: Performance, Composition and Appraisal.

At The Hart School, students study music for two hours per fortnight in year 7 at Key Stage 3, and fortnightly at year 8 and year 9. Students also cover music elements in

Performing Arts, where we study singing and music through Musical Theatre and discuss musical elements in our Dance provision.

Students who choose music as an option at KS4 (BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice) will study music for four hours per fortnight and pupils who choose music in KS5 (BTEC L3 Tech Award in Music Practice) will study music for eight hours per fortnight.

[The Hart School - Performing Arts Curriculum](#)

Our curriculum is informed by the [Model Music Curriculum](#) (MMC).

Students have the opportunity to learn to play and develop on keyboard, ukulele (leading to guitar and bass guitar) and using music technology throughout Year 7-9. In Year 7-9 pupils work individually and in pairs to develop as keyboard players. Whole-class ukulele tuition takes place in Year 7 and Year 8. Pupils experience whole-class drumming in Year 8 and pupils work in small groups to combine their keyboard, ukulele (and guitar) percussion (drumming) skills as part of a band.

The Hart School works closely with the other secondary schools in the MAT, working together on curriculum planning, delivery, assessment and extra-curricular activities, including joint concerts and other music-making events.

Students have the opportunity to study Music in Year 10 and Year 11 through the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice. In Year 12 and 13 have the opportunity to study BTEC Tech Award Level 3 in Music Practise.

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.

Extra-curricular music at The Hart School allows students to thrive in their musical journeys. Students consistently book practice rooms at break and lunchtime to practice, rehearse and create new music both individually and with their peers. Students have access to instruments and professional musical equipment to help them to realise their musical ideas. Not only does this offering give them time to hone their skills, but it also provides the opportunity for networking, as students can form new musical partnerships with like-minded people.

Students have the opportunity to receive high-quality small-group and one-to-one tuition on vocals, guitar and bass, piano, drums and woodwind on a weekly basis, with the opportunity to take graded examinations from Grades 1 to 8. These lessons take place during the school day within the music rooms/ practice rooms and are offered

free of charge or at a subsidised rate, depending on circumstance. Our provider for instrumental/ vocal tuition is Entrust Music Service Staffordshire.

Students can borrow instruments from school for practice (this is free) and there are practice rooms available before school and during break and lunch for private practice and small group rehearsal.

Students can join one of several ensembles. These include CET voices, singing ambassadors, these students have access to vocal coaching, provided by professionals in the industry and rock band club, who perform at our reward evenings and events. Further, the Music department works closely with Drama and Dance when rehearsing for the annual school musical. This gives all students the chance to practice and perform songs from popular musicals, developing their musical abilities as well as their interpersonal skills.

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.

Students at The Hart School have many opportunities to showcase their talent through a range of performances throughout the year. This provides them with invaluable experiences and long-lasting memories. A number of students are selected every year to take part in the CET cross-trust choir. This is an initiative where students across the trust are brought together to rehearse a range of challenging pieces from many genres, under the direction of professional singers and vocal coaches. These rehearsals then culminate in an annual performance for students and parents. Within this cohort, one student per year is chosen as a “singing ambassador”. This student receives 1-1 vocal coaching and is given the opportunity to perform a solo at the annual concert. As well as this, all students at The Hart School are encouraged to join the annual school musical. This means that whether students are interested in pursuing a main role, being part of the chorus or working backstage, they are able to experience the process of rehearsing and performing.

In the future

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

The Music department at The Hart School is always thriving to provide more opportunities for its students. With regards to the curriculum, staff are collaborating across the CET to draw on the expertise of musical professionals from across the country. This means that the curriculum is constantly evolving; incorporating new ideas and techniques that aim to give the students a more diverse and inspiring education. The Hart School is also exploring potential opportunities for an even more expansive extra-curricular offering as well as increasing the opportunities for students to experience live performance.

The Hart School are looking to expand the love and interest of students in music by offering opportunities to see live orchestras, inviting in a full live orchestra from Entrust music service for all of year 7 this year. We are currently working with Entrust to ensure we have opportunities for all KS3 year groups to experience different types of music at a whole year group event.