

THE HART SCHOOL

The Music Development Plan

Overview

Below is an overview that outlines some of the key information regarding music at The Hart School:

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
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. https://entrustmusic.co.uk

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.

At The Hart School, we believe that every student should experience the enjoyment and satisfaction of making music. Our curriculum is designed as a progressive journey that develops practical musicianship, creativity and confidence, while fostering a lifelong love and appreciation of music. Through performing, composing, listening and appraising, students explore a broad range of musical genres, styles and cultures, developing the knowledge and skills needed to become confident and independent musicians.

Music also plays an important role in supporting students' personal development and wellbeing. Alongside classroom learning, students are encouraged to engage with a wide range of enrichment

opportunities, performances and musical experiences within school, the local community and the wider Creative Education Trust (CET).

Curriculum Structure:

Students study Music throughout Key Stage 3, developing their practical musicianship, creativity and appreciation of music.

- Year 7: Two hours of Music per fortnight.
- Years 8 and 9: One hour of Music per fortnight.

In addition to curriculum Music lessons, students continue to develop their musical understanding through Performing Arts, where they explore singing and musical theatre, alongside the role of music within dance.

At Key Stage 4, students can choose to study the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice, receiving four hours of curriculum time per fortnight. Students wishing to continue their musical education at post-16 can study the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Practice, with eight hours of curriculum time per fortnight.

Our Curriculum

The Music curriculum is founded upon the National Curriculum for Music and is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (2021). It follows a carefully planned spiral model, enabling students to revisit and develop key musical knowledge and skills throughout Key Stage 3.

The four golden threads of the curriculum are:

- Performing
- Composing
- Listening & Appraising

These strands are woven throughout every unit of work, ensuring that students develop progressively as performers, composers and critical listeners.

Music lessons are practical, engaging and inclusive. Students sing, perform on a range of instruments, compose using both traditional and digital technologies, and develop the musical vocabulary required to analyse, compare and evaluate music from a wide variety of historical periods, genres and cultures. Students work independently, collaboratively in pairs and as part of larger ensembles, developing confidence, creativity, resilience and effective teamwork.

Curriculum Progression

Year 7

Year 7 provides the foundation for musical learning, building upon students' experiences from Key Stages 1 and 2. Students are introduced to the elements of music through practical performance, singing, instrumental work and creative composition. Improvisation provides an accessible introduction to composing, while simple notation enables students to record and communicate their musical ideas. A diverse range of musical traditions, including classical, popular and world music, broadens students' musical understanding from the outset.

Year 8

In Year 8, students extend the knowledge and practical skills developed during Year 7. The curriculum develops greater independence in performance and composition, introduces more challenging rhythmic concepts and encourages increasingly sophisticated ensemble work. Previously taught concepts are revisited in greater depth, allowing students to strengthen and refine their understanding.

Year 9

Year 9 consolidates and extends the musical skills acquired throughout Key Stage 3. Students perform with increasing technical control, compose more sophisticated musical works and demonstrate a deeper understanding of musical language and stylistic conventions. This prepares students for further study at Key Stage 4 while encouraging them to become reflective and independent musicians.

Key Stage 4

Students who choose Music at Key Stage 4 study the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice. The course develops practical performance, composition, music production and an understanding of the music industry through vocationally relevant projects and authentic musical experiences. The curriculum continues to develop the three core disciplines of Performance, Composition and Appraisal, equipping students with the technical, creative and professional skills required for further education, employment or careers within the creative industries.

Key Stage 5

Students wishing to continue their musical education can study the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Practice. This qualification enables students to specialise further in performance, composition, music production and music business, preparing them for higher education, apprenticeships and careers within the music industry.

Inclusion

The Hart School is committed to ensuring that every student can access, enjoy and succeed in Music. All students follow the same ambitious curriculum, with appropriate support, adaptive teaching and reasonable adjustments provided to remove barriers to learning. We maintain high expectations for every learner and ensure that students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged students are fully supported to achieve their potential.

Our inclusive approach includes:

- Maintaining high expectations and aspirations for all students.
- Delivering high-quality adaptive teaching that meets the needs of all learners.
- Planning lessons that provide appropriate challenge and opportunities for success.
- Using a variety of teaching approaches, including individual, paired, group and whole-class learning.
- Providing appropriate technology, resources and reasonable adjustments where required.

- Ensuring performances, educational visits and enrichment opportunities are accessible to all students.
- Identifying and removing barriers that may limit learning, participation or achievement.

Beyond the Classroom

Students have regular opportunities to develop their instrumental, vocal and music technology skills beyond timetabled lessons through extra-curricular clubs, performances and instrumental tuition.

The Hart School works closely with other schools within the Creative Education Trust, collaborating on curriculum development, assessment, moderation, professional learning and joint musical events. Students also benefit from partnerships with Entrust Music Service Staffordshire, providing access to instrumental and vocal tuition, graded music examinations and a wide range of performance opportunities.

Through these experiences, students are encouraged to continue developing their musical talents, celebrate their achievements and cultivate a lifelong appreciation of music.

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.

Music Beyond the Classroom

At The Hart School, we believe that music extends far beyond the classroom. We provide a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and instrumental tuition to enable students to develop their musical interests, build confidence and enjoy making music with others.

Extra-Curricular Music

Students from all key stages are encouraged to participate in music enrichment activities throughout the academic year. Our current extra-curricular provision includes:

- Rock and Pop Club
- School Choir
- Keyboard Club
- BTEC Music Support Sessions
- Rehearsal spaces for individual practice, small group rehearsals and collaborative music-making.

Students regularly make use of the music facilities before school, during break and at lunchtime to rehearse, compose and develop their performance skills. Access to high-quality instruments, music technology and professional equipment allows students to explore their creativity and work

collaboratively with their peers. These opportunities not only help students refine their musical skills but also encourage teamwork, confidence and lasting musical partnerships.

The Music Department also works closely with the Drama and Dance departments in preparing the annual school musical. Students can become involved as performers, musicians or members of the production team, providing valuable opportunities to rehearse and perform music from a range of musical theatre productions while developing their performance, communication and teamwork skills.

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

Any student wishing to learn a musical instrument or develop their vocal skills is encouraged and supported to do so. We are pleased to work in partnership with Entrust Music Service, who provide high-quality instrumental and vocal tuition during the school day.

Lessons are delivered by specialist Entrust teachers and are available on a range of instruments, including:

- Vocals
- Piano and Keyboard
- Guitar and Bass Guitar
- Drums
- Woodwind instruments

Students receive one-to-one tuition and have the opportunity to work towards nationally recognised graded examinations (Grades 1–8). There is a cost for lessons per term, some lessons are offered at a subsidised rate for eligible students, depending on individual circumstances.

Instrumental lessons take place during the school day within the Music Department. Timetables are organised by Entrust Music Service in consultation with the school and are subject to demand, teacher availability and suitable accommodation. Students are required to leave timetabled lessons to attend their instrumental lessons.

Students learning an instrument may also borrow selected school instruments free of charge for home practice, and dedicated practice rooms are available before school, during break and at lunchtime for independent practice and ensemble rehearsals.

Interest in instrumental tuition and extra-curricular music continues to grow at The Hart School, with increasing numbers of students participating in clubs, ensembles and peripatetic lessons each year. Through these opportunities, we aim to nurture a lifelong love of music and provide every student with the chance to develop their musical talents beyond the classroom. For further information about instrumental or vocal lessons, please contact the Subject Leader for Music, Miss Stewart.

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.

At The Hart School, every student is encouraged to take part in the rich musical life of the school. Whether performing on stage, singing as part of an ensemble, supporting productions behind the scenes or attending performances as an audience member, students are given opportunities to engage with music both within school and in the wider community.

Throughout the academic year, students can participate in a variety of musical events and performances, including:

Musical Events

- Christmas Concert
- Summer Concert
- Annual School Musical Production

Musical Performances

- Open Evening
- Christmas Fayre
- Awards Evenings and School Assemblies
- Community and Trust performance opportunities

These events provide students with valuable opportunities to develop their confidence, performance skills and teamwork while creating lasting memories and celebrating their musical achievements.

Students also have the opportunity to represent The Hart School as members of the Creative Education Trust Cross-Trust Choir. This initiative brings together talented young singers from across the Trust to rehearse and perform a diverse repertoire under the guidance of experienced vocal coaches and professional musicians, fostering collaboration and musical excellence.

In addition, all students are encouraged to become involved in the annual school musical production. Whether performing a lead role, singing in the chorus, playing in the band, assisting with technical production or working backstage, students experience every stage of the rehearsal and performance process. These opportunities help to develop confidence, resilience, creativity and teamwork while nurturing a lifelong appreciation and enjoyment of music and the performing arts.

In the future

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

Looking Ahead

The Music Department at The Hart School is committed to continually developing and enhancing its provision to ensure that every student has access to a rich, engaging and ambitious musical education. Working collaboratively across the Creative Education Trust (CET), staff draw upon the expertise of colleagues and music professionals to continually review and refine the curriculum, ensuring it remains relevant, inclusive and inspiring for all learners.

Alongside curriculum development, we are committed to expanding the range of enrichment opportunities available to students. Our aim is to inspire a lifelong love of music by increasing access to high-quality live performances, workshops and collaborative musical experiences, both within school and beyond.

As part of this commitment, we have successfully welcomed a live orchestra from Entrust Music Service to perform for all Year 7 and Year 8 students during this academic year. This has provided students with the opportunity to experience the excitement of live orchestral music and develop a greater appreciation of different musical genres and styles. We are continuing to work closely with Entrust to provide similar experiences for all Key Stage 3 students and aim to establish these events as an annual feature of the school calendar.

Over the coming years, the Music Department will continue to build upon its provision through the following priorities:

- Redeveloping and refining the Key Stage 3 curriculum to reflect the expertise of our growing department and ensure a broad, balanced and progressive musical education.
- Expanding the curriculum to provide students with greater opportunities to learn a wider range of instruments, including developing vocal performance across all year groups.
- Increasing the use of music technology within lessons, enabling students to develop contemporary composition, recording and production skills while investing in new resources to support this provision.
- Encouraging greater participation in instrumental and vocal tuition, alongside increasing engagement with extra-curricular ensembles, including the school choir and instrumental groups.
- Providing more regular opportunities for students to perform throughout the academic year through termly concerts, showcases and community performances.
- Continuing to increase participation in Key Stage 4 Music, with the long-term ambition of broadening our qualifications offer to include GCSE Music alongside our vocational pathways.
- Strengthening partnerships with Entrust Music Service, the Create Education Trust and local organisations to provide students with a wider range of workshops, masterclasses and live musical experiences.

Through these developments, we aim to create an inspiring musical environment where every student is encouraged to develop their talents, broaden their cultural experiences and foster a lifelong appreciation of music.

Further information (optional)

Our Local Music Hub

The Hart School is proud to work in partnership with **Entrust Music Service**, our local Music Hub, to provide high-quality music education and instrumental tuition for our students.

About Entrust Music Service Staffordshire

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire is the county's leading provider of music education, with over 75 years of experience supporting schools, families and young musicians. Based at the Riverway Centre in Stafford, the service works with more than 260 schools and is a lead partner within the Department for Education's regional Music Hub, The Music Partnership.

The service offers a wide range of musical opportunities, including individual and small-group instrumental and vocal tuition, whole-class ensemble teaching, county ensembles and local music centre groups. Their experienced team of specialist music educators delivers an inclusive, high-quality curriculum that enables students of all abilities to develop their musical knowledge, skills and confidence. Entrust also provides professional development and training for teachers to support excellent music education across Staffordshire.

Working with thousands of students each week, Entrust Music Service helps young people make sustained musical progress through engaging learning experiences, regular assessment and a broad range of performance opportunities.

For further information, please visit the Entrust Music Service website or contact the team by email at musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk.

Enrichment Opportunities

During their time at The Hart School, students have numerous opportunities to perform and collaborate through classroom activities, concerts, productions and extra-curricular ensembles. They regularly work as individuals, in small groups and as part of larger ensembles, developing confidence, teamwork and musicianship through practical performance.

Students are also encouraged to learn a musical instrument or receive vocal tuition. We are fortunate to work with a team of highly skilled visiting instrumental and vocal teachers from Entrust Music Service, who offer lessons on a wide range of instruments throughout the academic year.

For more information about instrumental or vocal lessons at The Hart School, or to discuss the opportunities available, please contact the Subject Leader for Music, Miss Stewart, via email at ellen.stewart@hartschool.org.uk.