



Music development plan summary: [The Appleton School]

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	April 2025
Name of the school music lead	A. Gough
Name of local music hub	Greater Essex Music Hub: Essex Music Service

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.

Within Performing Arts, we aim to engage and inspire students to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, increasing their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. We do not just prepare students for assessments and examinations in Music, but look at developing a lifelong appreciation and love of Music. Through our schemes of work, we develop students' skills in three main areas: performing, composing and listening and appraising.

Within The Appleton School, we currently cover Music within KS3 and KS4, KS3 has two hours of Music a fortnight and classes studying the GCSE Music course have four or five hours a fortnight. Our GCSE students are following the [Eduqas GCSE Specification](#).

Within the Music Department, we cover a wide range of schemes of work which allow our students to learn a variety of instruments including Singing, Percussion, Guitar, Drums, Ukulele and Keyboard.

At the end of each half-term, all KS3 students complete an assessment which will have either a practical, listening or composing focus. These assessments have given subject teachers the ability to plan and develop schemes of work based on misconceptions that may have occurred.

As a department, we are also looking at the opportunity to continue to develop and embed Music technology into our KS3 schemes of work, which will support the transition from KS3 to 4 and allow students to have more of an understanding of how Music technology can enhance composition. Classes have been using Charanga, YuMu Studio Music technology software.

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.

Within the Performing Arts Department, we strive to inspire students and give them the knowledge to develop their own passion for arts. As a department, we continually develop our extracurricular activities, to allow all students to develop an understanding of the wider ethos of the arts.

Singing is embedded into the whole wider ethos of the Appleton school. Appleton has a number of staff members which have a strong subject knowledge, including a wide variety of performance styles. Currently, Appleton runs a KS3 Choir and an Elite invited vocal group called 'Harmonics' - both led by Miss Gough. Students are always working as a team and are encouraged to give consistent criticism and feedback, to help develop skills required as a performer. Both vocal groups participate in a variety of performances in and outside of school - including the school's annual events. Appleton School currently offers an instrumental band, which links across all key stages, including a variety of different instruments and genres of music.

Individual Instrumental lessons are available to students at the Appleton School and are available in piano, singing, flute, clarinet, saxophone, guitar and drum kit. These are taught by peripatetic tutors from Essex Music Education Hub / Essex Music Services.

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.

We believe that performing is an integral part of pupils' musical development and encourage students to perform at a wide variety of events both inside and outside of school.

All of our school performances are student-led, including the performance and technical elements of all productions. Productions include students from all year groups ranging from Year 7 through to students in our sixth form.

During the school academic calendar, students have the opportunity to participate in three annual events which include:

1. Christmas Concert
2. Spring Performing Arts Festival
3. Summer School Musical production

All of these are performed to audiences in the school hall, and include technical set-up with lighting and sound equipment. This always gives our students the opportunity to perform within this professional setting.

Students are constantly given the opportunity to network within other local societies including performances at local annual events such as the Castle Point Christmas concert and Gotta Sing, showing our student's passion for music to our wider community. Students are also given opportunities to attend school trips such as professional concerts and shows in London's West End to develop student's understanding of the industry of the arts.

In the future

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

Within the Appelon school we would like to continue to develop the student's passion for the arts, this will include continuing to develop the following aspects:

- Exploring the transition from KS2 to KS3 Music curriculum, making sure that all student's needs are met and all students are making progress.
- Continually review our music curriculum and offer based on pupil and parental voice and staff feedback, ensuring that lessons meet the needs and interests of pupils, further improving engagement in our Music curriculum.

- Students to continue to have opportunities in all aspects of the arts including individual and Ensemble group performances, both internally and externally.
- Staff will continue to work alongside the Essex Music Hub to offer students extra opportunities within the local network on Music.
- Students to be given more opportunities to network with practitioners from the music industry, including guest speakers from all aspects of the arts.
- Students will be given more opportunities to attend and watch more performances outside of the school environment. This will help students to develop knowledge and network with others within the industry of the arts.