



Music development plan summary: Aston Fields Middle School

At Aston Fields Middle School, our intent is to provide all pupils with opportunities to explore creatively, and express themselves through performing, composing, singing, listening and developing musical understanding.

Our music curriculum, for all year groups, is designed to ensure coverage of the national curriculum content whilst providing plenty of opportunities for pupils to develop a deeper appreciation and love of music. Our intent is to ensure pupils leave Aston Fields Middle School with the knowledge and skills needed for the next stage of their education and beyond and a desire to continue learning through music. For this reason, the music curriculum harnesses a building block approach - pupils have multiple opportunities to master and improve their skills in performing, composing, singing and musical understanding. For example, school music concerts, a singing culture at the school and a thriving peripatetic team of instrumentalists aid the curriculum intent for music at Aston Fields Middle School. Ultimately, these skills prepare pupils for a range of employment opportunities from playing in bands and orchestras, recording and producing, to teaching, conducting and much more.

Due to the opportunities provided and the carefully designed curriculum, pupils build a strong knowledge base. They know more, remember more and demonstrate this in their strong performances.

The teaching of music is led by Mr Hall, Director of Music/Deputy Headteacher, and an outstanding team of music practitioners who all share a love and passion for music. The department thrives on teamwork, the sharing of good ideas and the strengthening of subject knowledge through cooperation and collaboration. Teachers, who are passionate about music and the pivotal role it plays in children's education and their futures, teach music to all of our pupils an hour each week.

The music room is purpose built with 15 Yamaha keyboards, 30 djembe drums, 20 soprano/alto glockenspiels, 8 xylophones, 8 metallophones, a bass xylophone, a bass metallophone and a range of pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments. In addition, pupils have access to guitars (acoustic & electric) a drum kit, a Tyros Yamaha digital piano, a full size electronic clavichord and 3 upright pianos.

The music block has one large and one small practice room which are used for both music lessons as well as ensemble rehearsals and peripatetic music lessons.



Music Curriculum

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
<p>5 finger study</p> <p>Pupils learn to use their right hand and 5 fingers accurately focusing on correct hand position on a keyboard/piano. Pupils will learn about the composer, Beethoven and learn to perform “Ode To Joy”</p>	<p>Rhythm Time</p> <p>To perform, in groups, an African themed rhythmic performance with polyphonic rhythms fitting together, accurately in time.</p>	<p>Shanty Time</p> <p>To arrange and perform the Sea Shanty, “Drunken Sailor” using pitched and un-pitched instruments. You will learn to play 2 chords and 4 melodic phrases which you will experiment with in small groups.</p>	<p>12 Bar Blues</p> <p>To learn to play the chord progression to the 12 Bar Blues. To learn to play the walking base and a popular blues melody. In addition, pupils will learn to improvise effectively over the blues scale.</p>
<p>Oriental music</p> <p>Pupils perform as a solo “Siamese Cat Song” and compose, in small groups, an oriental piece of music for a traditional celebration (wedding, birthday etc...) using the notes from the Pentatonic Scale.</p>	<p>Orchestral Instruments</p> <p>To learn the instruments in orchestras and bands. To compose and perform a piece of music that uses motifs/thematic identities to portray the characteristics of an animal and/or character.</p>	<p>SAMBA</p> <p>To learn to play a variety of popular Samba rhythms and incorporate/combine these into a group performance – maintaining own parts whilst performing with others.</p>	<p>Chords</p> <p>To learn to play a variety of chords in the left hand and play them with the correct fingering in root position, 1st inversion and 2nd inversion.</p>
<p>Journey to Outer Space</p> <p>Pupils learn to play the chromatic scale and arrange/perform, in groups, using a variety of pitched and un-pitched instruments, a Journey into Outer Space. Pupils will explore and experiment with chromatic notes and a variety of musical elements to create the feeling of SPACE. Also, pupils will learn to play the Hale Bopp.</p>	<p>Form & Structure</p> <p>To learn how music can be structured and developed with a particular focus on Binary, Ternary and Rondo</p>	<p>Hooks & Riffs</p> <p>To learn to play some popular hooks and riffs from well-known musicians and arrange a performance of Seven Nation Army and Smoke on the Water.</p>	<p>Music in the Media</p> <p>To learn to play some popular Leitmotifs which have been used in films/cartoons etc. To compose leitmotifs which reflect and depict a character, a scene and/or action from a film</p>

Extra Curricular Music Opportunities 2024/25

- School Orchestra
- School Choir
- Guitar Ensemble
- School Band
- Keyboard Club
- Chamber Orchestra
- Boys' Choir
- Music Technology Club
- School Musical Production

Throughout the year, pupils will have many opportunities to perform to friends and family, their peers and the local community. These performances include:

- A transition music morning
- A Christmas Carol concert
- A community music concert to residents in a local care home
- A spring peripatetic music concert
- A biannual school production

Some of our pupil premium pupils, as well as our G&T/ Most Able pupils will visit the city of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) to enrich and inspire the love and passion for music and music education beyond the classroom.



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr G Hall
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr G Hall
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

Music Curriculum in KS2

Intent – What is Aston Fields Middle School aiming to achieve through its curriculum?

- To develop a love for music
- To develop the skills of performing, composing, singing and musical understanding
- To develop performances, using voices and pitched/unpitched instruments, with increasing accuracy
- To begin to explore how music can be created, organised, manipulated and structured within different musical contexts
- To learn about key composers and musicians
- To explore the voice – singing in solo and in ensemble contexts
- To begin to explore and experiment with the musical elements – pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure
- To learn how music can be recorded and communicated including beginning to use appropriate musical notations

Implementation – How is the Aston Fields Middle School curriculum delivered?

- KS2 music curriculum is taught weekly
- Pupils have full access to the music national curriculum at KS2
- The music curriculum is designed to be challenging, appropriate to each pupil's stage of development and lay the foundations for music learning at KS3 and beyond
- The music curriculum is designed to build and expand on previous skills and the subject knowledge taught at first school. It also plans for opportunities for repetition to embed knowledge, increasing the chance of information recall (remembering more) and to integrate new knowledge into various musical contexts – knowing more, remembering more
- Pupils have regular opportunities to build their confidence and resilience when performing and composing, including singing
- Pupils have regular opportunities to build on their knowledge and understanding of great composers and musicians, developing an understanding of the history of music
- Pupils have regular opportunities to improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- Pupils have regular opportunities to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using voices and pitched/unpitched instruments with accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- Pupils have regular opportunities to listen to music with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory

- Pupils have regular opportunities to appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions
- Pupils regularly reflect on their own progress using a building blocks approach – layering musical knowledge and skills and make links to the music national curriculum

Impact – What difference is the Aston Fields Middle School curriculum making on pupils?

- Pupils move to KS3, well prepared for the next stage of musical understanding and competences
- Pupils feel confident to perform in solo/group ensembles
- Pupils are confident at manipulating and organising musical ideas and recording these using staff and other relevant notations accurately
- Pupils have a critical engagement with music which in turn will allow them to be creative when composing and arranging musical ideas
- Performance skills improve, are developed on and mastered over time
- Pupils are more confident learning a musical instrument with a view to a lifelong involvement
- Pupils feel good about themselves creating a positive mental health ethos



Music Curriculum in KS3

Intent – What is Aston Fields Middle School aiming to achieve through its curriculum?

- To develop a love for music
- To develop and build on their previous knowledge and skills of performing, composing, singing and musical understanding which includes listening
- To play and perform confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts
- To use the voice and play instruments musically, fluently with accuracy and expression
- To improvise, compose and arrange music from a range of musical structures, styles, genres and traditions
- To listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians
- To use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately when recording musical ideas
- To identify and use the inter-related dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including the use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices
- To develop a deeper understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen and its history

Implementation – How is the Aston Fields Middle School curriculum delivered?

- KS3 music curriculum is taught weekly
- Pupils have full access to the music national curriculum at KS3 – Year 7 and Year 8 with us and Year 9 at the high school
- The music curriculum is designed to be challenging, appropriate to each pupil's stage of development and lay the foundations for music learning in Year 9 and beyond
- The music curriculum is designed to build and expand on previous skills and subject knowledge taught at first school and previously at Aston Fields Middle School. It also plans for opportunities for repetition to embed knowledge, increasing the chance of information recall (remembering more) and to integrate new knowledge into many musical contexts – knowing more, remembering more and doing more
- Pupils build their confidence and resilience in performing and composing, including singing with the intention to be fluent, accurate and expressive
- Pupils use technologies appropriately and appreciate and understand a wide range of musical contexts and styles
- Pupils build on their knowledge and understanding of great composers and musicians recognising the impact they have or have had on music over time



- Pupils develop their understanding of how music can be expressive and sophisticated through exploring tonalities, various types of scales and other musical devices
- Pupils develop their understanding of how music can be created, produced and communicated
- Pupils have regular opportunities to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using voices and pitched/unpitched instruments with accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- Pupils continue to have regular opportunities to listen to music with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- Pupils develop their understanding of the music they perform and to which they listen, including its history and how this informs their practice as musicians – being reflective and discriminative
- Pupils regularly reflect on their own progress using a building blocks approach - layering musical knowledge and skills and making links to the music national curriculum

Impact – What difference is the Aston Fields Middle School curriculum making on pupils and their musical understanding?

- Pupils leave Aston Fields Middle School, well prepared for the next stage of musical understanding and competences
- Pupils leave well prepared for the rigours of GCSE music
- Pupils are resilient and challenge themselves musically, developing independence
- Pupils leave with grounded knowledge and understanding of great composers and musicians and how they have influenced present and future musicians/composers
- Pupils leave with the skills to be able to critically engage with music
- Pupils leave being confident to sing and perform with others with a view to life-long involvement in choirs, bands, orchestras both in and out of school

Music Offer for pupils with SEND in KS2 and KS3

Music education in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 plays a crucial role in the holistic development of pupils, enabling them to enhance their creativity, expressiveness, and cultural understanding. At Aston Fields Middle School, we are committed to providing a comprehensive music offer that caters to the diverse needs and abilities of all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). All pupils access the music curriculum – this is not compromised for other aspects of learning.

To support pupils with SEND in their musical learning journey, we adopt a personalised approach that recognises and celebrates individual differences. Our inclusive music curriculum is designed to be accessible and engaging for all pupils, regardless of their challenges. We provide differentiated tasks, scaffolded support, and assistive technologies to ensure that every pupil can participate and progress in music lessons.

In collaboration with our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) and external professionals, we use Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and personalised learning strategies for pupils with SEND in music. These plans outline specific goals, accommodations, and interventions tailored to the unique needs of each pupil, fostering their musical skills and confidence over time.

Furthermore, our music department works closely with teaching assistants and support staff to create a nurturing and inclusive learning environment for pupils with SEND. Through small group sessions, one-to-one tuition, and multi-sensory activities, we provide additional support and reinforcement to help these pupils overcome barriers and succeed in music.

Regular communication with parents/carers is also a key aspect of our approach, as we value their input and collaboration in supporting the musical development of pupils with SEND. By fostering strong partnerships between home and school, we ensure a shared understanding of each pupil's progress, challenges, and achievements in music.

In conclusion, our school's music offer in KS2 and KS3 is underpinned by a commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and personalised support for pupils with SEND. By embracing individual differences and fostering a culture of accessibility and collaboration, we strive to empower all pupils to discover, explore, and excel in the wonderful world of music, here at Aston Fields Middle School.

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.

At Aston Fields Middle School, there are many opportunities for pupils to further enrich their passion and enjoyment of music. Through Severn Arts, we offer instrumental tuition outside of what is taught during lesson times. These can vary from one to one to small group tuition. From September 2024, Pupils will have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, both orchestral as well as non-orchestral too. 34 learning individually and 44 learning in a small group. This totals 78 pupils learning to play a musical instrument.

Musical Clubs	Costs (if applicable)	How to apply
Boys' Choir	Free for all year groups.	Complete Google application form
School Orchestra	Free for pupils who have instrumental lessons through Severn Arts. £1.50 a week for those pupils who do not have lessons through Severn Arts.	Complete Google application form
Band Club	Free for all year groups.	Complete Google application form
Guitar Club	Fee tbc	Complete Google application form
School Choir	Free for all year groups.	Complete Google application form
Chamber Orchestra	Free for all year groups.	Complete Google application form
Music Technology Club	Free for all year groups.	Complete Google application form
School Production Rehearsals	Free for all year groups.	Complete Google application form

Those pupils eligible for pupil premium must write to the lead teacher for disadvantaged learners/ pupil premium, who will look at how instrumental lessons (including hiring of instruments and paying for clubs) can be considered for financial support.

Musical experiences

Musical Experiences Throughout the Year

At Aston Fields Middle School, music is not just a subject; it is a vibrant tapestry that enriches the educational journey of our pupils.

Singing Opportunities

In addition to the school choir, singing assemblies are a cornerstone of our musical activities. These gatherings provide a platform for our pupils to come together, harmonise their voices, and cultivate a sense of community through music. The uplifting melodies resonate through the school corridors, fostering a spirit of unity and joy among the pupils and staff alike.

Music Concerts

Throughout the year, our school hosts a series of music concerts that showcase the talent and dedication of our budding musicians. From solo performances to ensemble renditions, these concerts offer a platform for our pupils to display their musical prowess and creativity. The audience is treated to a mesmerising display of musical virtuosity, leaving them inspired and awestruck by the musical talent within our school community.

Music Transition Event for Year 4

The transition to a new school can be a daunting experience for pupils, but our annual music transition event for Year 4 serves as a welcoming and immersive introduction to the world of music at our school. Through interactive workshops, collaborative activities, and performances, the pupils are introduced to the diverse musical opportunities available to them, setting the stage for a rich and rewarding musical journey ahead.

Visits to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

One of the highlights of our musical calendar is the opportunity for some of our pupils to visit the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and witness live performances by professional musicians. These captivating performances not only expose our pupils to the beauty of orchestral music but also ignite a passion for musical excellence and inspire them to pursue their own musical aspirations.

Biannual School Production

The school production is a crowning achievement of our music department, showcasing the culmination of months of hard work, dedication, and creative collaboration. From casting to rehearsals to the final performance, the school production serves as a testament to the talent, resilience, and teamwork of our pupils and staff. The production not only entertains and captivates the audience but also instils a sense of pride and accomplishment in all involved.

In conclusion, musical experiences are woven into the fabric of our school's educational ethos, enriching the lives of our pupils and fostering a deep appreciation for the transformative power of music. Through singing opportunities, music concerts, transition events, orchestra visits, and school productions, we cultivate a vibrant musical culture that nurtures creativity, collaboration, and personal growth among our pupils.

In the future

Future Objectives for the Music Department Across the School.

In an ever-evolving educational landscape, the music department plays a crucial role in providing pupils with a well-rounded and enriching learning experience. As we look towards the future, it is imperative to set clear objectives that will enhance the musical journey of our pupils and foster a culture of creativity and collaboration.

One key objective for the music department is to develop the use of music technology as a tool for creativity and expression. In today's digital age, technology has become an integral part of the music industry, and equipping our pupils with the skills to navigate music technology software will not only broaden their musical horizons but also prepare them for future opportunities in the field. By providing access to software that enables pupils to record, edit, and compose their own music, we empower them to explore their artistic potential and develop their unique musical voice.

Furthermore, forming links across the Spire C of E Learning Trust will be instrumental in achieving our goal of offering pupils wider and larger musical experiences. Collaboration with other schools within the Trust provides pupils with the opportunity to participate in joint musical events, workshops, and performances. This not only enriches their musical education but also cultivates a sense of community and camaraderie among pupils across different school settings. By fostering these connections, we can create a vibrant musical network that enhances the overall musical experience for our pupils.

Moreover, integrating music technology with collaborative initiatives across the Trust can lead to innovative musical projects that showcase the talent and creativity of our pupils. By combining technological tools with collaborative opportunities, we can create interdisciplinary projects that push the boundaries of traditional music education and bring fresh perspectives to our musical repertoire. This approach not only exposes pupils to diverse musical experiences but also instils in them a sense of curiosity and resilience to adapt to new challenges in the ever-changing landscape of the music industry.

In conclusion, the future objectives for the music department across the school are centred on harnessing the power of music technology, fostering collaborative links within the Spire C of E Learning Trust, and creating innovative musical experiences for our pupils. By embracing these objectives, we can empower our pupils to explore their musical potential, engage in meaningful musical collaborations, and prepare themselves for a future where creativity, technology, and community intertwine to shape the musical landscape for our pupils at Aston Fields Middle School.