Dene Magna School Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 — 2025
Date this summary was published	01/09/24
Date this summary will be reviewed	20/05/25
Name of the school music lead	Chris Wynn (Head of Performing Arts); Laura Bendall-Burt (Teacher in Charge of Music)
Name of local music hub	GSW Music Hub (Lead Organisation: Gloucestershire Music)

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

Our school's comprehensive curriculum plan for music, including our Intent, Implementation and Impact document, can be found on our website here. This details the sequential learning goals, curriculum coverage and strategies for building music skills and knowledge at each key stage.

We are deeply committed to increasing access and providing robust support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in music education. A range of measures and accommodations are provided:

Adapted Instruments and Equipment:

- Assistive technologies like adapted music stands, specialised seating, etc. when needed
- Practice rooms for students with sensory issues

Curriculum Modifications:

- Differentiated instruction and individualised lesson plans to meet varying abilities
- Incorporation of visual aids for students with learning disabilities as needed

Assessment Accommodations:

- Extended time allotted for assignments, performances and assessments
- Adjustments made to performance requirements when necessary

Staffing Support:

- Teaching Assistants are present in music classes as needed, to provide additional guidance

Instrument Adaptation:

- Use of digital instruments as alternatives when appropriate

Ensemble Inclusion:

- Mixed ability groups that celebrate diversity
- Considered repertoire selection to ensure inclusivity

Accessibility:

- Ensuring music rooms, practice spaces and performance venues have accessible entrances, seating, etc.
- Providing transportation assistance for off-site events
- Offering printed materials in alternate formats like large print

Our school's pupil premium funding has been instrumental in enabling many students to access high-quality additional music education through peripatetic teachers. This funding covers partial or full tuition fees based on eligibility criteria. Pupil premium students are also actively encouraged to apply for the Gloucestershire Music Bursary, which in the 2023-24 academic year fully funded music tuition for 7 of our students, totaling £3,215. Funding is also set aside to provide instrumental lessons for looked-after children who wish to pursue them. Moreover, the school directly subsidises £50 per term towards additional tuition costs for GCSE Music students.

At Key Stage 3, students embark on their musical journey with three Performing Arts lessons per fortnight in Year 7, incorporating both Music and Drama. This is followed by two dedicated Music lessons per fortnight in Years 8 and 9. For those opting to take GCSE Music at Key Stage 4, we offer 5 lessons per fortnight, following the OCR specification. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is carefully informed by the non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3, published by the Department for Education.

Throughout Key Stage 3, students are exposed to a diverse range of musical instruments through the use of our class sets of keyboards as well as other orchestral and world instruments. They also engage in whole-class singing activities in Year 7. The wide-ranging curriculum covers various genres and styles including film music, reggae, jazz and musical theatre. This lays a solid foundation for students to appreciate different musical traditions and develop skills in performance, composition and listening.

By providing a comprehensive, inclusive and high-quality curriculum along with exceptional funding support, we strive to nurture the musical talents and passion of all our students, regardless of background or ability.

Part B: Extra-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.

Our school offers a rich array of co-curricular music opportunities for students across all year groups (7-13) to further develop their musical talents and interests beyond the classroom. These activities are led by our passionate Music and Performing Arts department staff - Mrs Bendall-Burt, Miss Barker and Mr Wynn.

Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles:

- School Choir
- Jazz Band
- Opportunities to perform in Soirees and the annual School Production

Participation in these ensembles is free of charge and open to all students, allowing them to collaborate, build ensemble skills and experience the joy of live performance.

Individual Music Tuition: One-to-one instrumental tuition is available across a diverse range of instruments including singing, guitar (electric, acoustic and bass), drums, violin, piano, keyboard, trumpet, cornet, clarinet, flute and saxophone. These lessons are provided by specialist peripatetic teachers.

The cost for 30-minute individual lessons ranges from £145 to £155 per term, depending on the instrument. However, tuition fees can be subsidised or fully covered through various funding sources:

- Gloucestershire Music Bursary
- Pupil Premium funding
- Looked-After Children (LAC) funding
- School subsidy of £50 per term for GCSE Music students

Instrumental lesson scheduling is efficiently managed through Practice Pal, an online co-curricular scheduling program by Involve Education (involveeducation.com).

Musical Experiences:

- Trips to local and regional theatre productions expose students to professional performances.
- GCSE Music students have access to professional recording facilities at Berry Hill Studio for coursework recordings.

Practice Facilities: Three sound-proofed practice rooms are available during break and lunch periods, allowing students dedicated spaces to hone their skills.

Instrument Hire: The school facilitates instrument hire through our partnership with Gloucestershire Music for those unable to provide their own.

By offering such a comprehensive range of high-quality co-curricular opportunities, accessible to students of all ages and financial backgrounds, we aim to foster a lifelong appreciation for music-making.

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 Dene Magna, we strive to provide our students with a diverse array of opportunities to experience and participate in live musical performances throughout the academic year. These experiences not only enrich their appreciation for music but also motivate and inspire them in their own musical journeys.

School Productions: Our annual school production is a highly anticipated event that allows students to showcase their talents on stage. In December 2024, we will be presenting *Shrek the Musical Jr.*, welcoming students from all year groups to participate.

Talent Shows: Celebrating the diverse talents of our students, the Dene Magna Talent Show, scheduled for February 2025, provides a platform for students to perform in front of their peers and the wider school community.

Soiree Performances: Throughout the year, we organise Soiree performances, offering students the chance to perform in front of an audience and gain valuable stage experience (dates to be confirmed).

Theatre Trips: To expose our students to professional musical performances, we organise trips to local and regional theatres. Upcoming trips include:

- A trip for GCSE Music and Drama students to see a musical performance (show, date, and venue to be confirmed; past performances have included *The Lion King* and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*).
- A Year 8 trip to see a musical as part of our Timetable Suspension program (show, date, and venue to be confirmed; past performances have included *Frozen the Musical* and *Wicked*).

These experiences not only provide entertainment but also serve as learning opportunities for our students to appreciate various styles, genres and production elements of live musical performances.

By offering such a diverse range of musical experiences, we aim to cultivate a lifelong love for music and the performing arts in our students, fostering their personal growth and nurturing their artistic expression.

In the future

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

At Dene Magna, we are continuously exploring new avenues to enhance and enrich our music provision, ensuring that our students have access to the latest instruments, digital programs and opportunities, both within the classroom and beyond. Our commitment to musical excellence drives us to stay at the forefront of music education.

As the Forest of Dean Trust continues to expand, we are excited about the prospect of developing a trust-wide music development plan. This initiative will further strengthen the musical journey for students across our family of schools, providing a seamless and cohesive experience from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 4.

Further information

For parents, students and community members seeking additional information or resources related to music education, we recommend exploring the following organisations and resources:

GSW Music Hub (formerly Make Music Gloucestershire): https://www.makemusicgloucestershire.org.uk/ A local organisation dedicated to supporting and promoting music-making opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Gloucestershire Music: https://www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/ Our trusted partner, providing high-quality music education services and resources across the county.

The Department for Education Guide for Parents and Young People: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people A comprehensive guide from the Department for Education on how young people and their families can get involved in music education, both in and out of school.

As we continue to refine and evolve our music development plan, we welcome input and collaboration from our local community and music education partners. Together, we can create enriching experiences that inspire and empower our students to embrace the transformative power of music.