

Music development plan summary: KING CHARLES 1 SCHOOL *(part of the Four Stones Gateway Trust)*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Chrissie Morgan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jo Thomas
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	The Four Stones Gateway Trust also includes: The De Montfort School Haybridge High School and Sixth Form Lacon Childe School Clee Hill Community Academy Cleobury Mortimer Primary School Stottesdon CofE Primary School

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 King Charles 1 School, the music curriculum is delivered via weekly one-hour lessons for Years 7, 8 and 9. Our teaching staff consist of two members of staff who deliver the curriculum, both of whom have different areas of expertise within music but are both able to support students to develop their performing, composing and listening skills throughout the curriculum and extra-curriculum. This gives the department a well-rounded and diverse approach to music education.

Our curriculum is comprised of the four strands outlined in the [model music curriculum](#) (non-statutory guidance published by the Department for Education in March 2021): singing, listening, composing and performance. Our department aims to provide a comprehensive and engaging music education that fosters a lifelong love of music and supports students' creative and personal growth.

Key elements of our curriculum informed by the model music curriculum include:

1. **Development of musical skill:** The curriculum is designed to develop students' musical skills, year on year, ensuring a coherent learning experience.

2. **Broadening of student's musical repertoire:** Students are exposed to a wide variety of musical genres and styles, promoting cultural capital and an appreciation of music they may not necessarily be exposed to otherwise.

3. **Practical musical tasks:** There is a strong emphasis on practical activities, including singing, instrumental playing, and composing, to develop hands-on musical skills.

4. **Listening and appraising:** Students are encouraged to listen critically and appraise different types of music in lessons and in homework tasks, to develop their listening and appraisal skills.

5. **Whole-Class ensemble teaching:** Our curriculum includes opportunities for whole-class ensemble teaching, developing skillsets in keyboard, guitar and vocal.

6. **Teamwork and collaboration:** Playing in an ensemble teaches students the importance of working together, listening to others, and contributing to a group effort. This collaboration helps build the social skills of our students.

7. **Performance opportunities:** Students often get opportunities to perform in front of their peers, receive feedback from peers and teachers and have opportunities to participate in school events, which builds the confidence of our students.

The table below illustrates our curriculum topics in key stage 3.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Introduction Musical Elements & Keyboard Skills	Instruments of the Orchestra	Musical Theatre
Keyboard Skills – Ode to Joy	Dictation (Happy Birthday)	Blues
Scales in Music & Rondo composition	Film Music	Popular music through the decades
Scales in Music & Rondo composition	Film Music & Ensemble performance	Popular music through the decades
Ukulele Skills	Theme and Variations	Reggae
Song Writing	Rap Music	Pop Performance

At Key Stage 4 students may opt to complete the OCR Music GCSE which encompasses performing, composing and listening/appraising in the following areas:

- Area of Study 2: The Concerto Through Time (Baroque, Classical and Romantic)
- Area of Study 3: Rhythms of The World (African, Indian Classical, Bhangra, Samba, Calypso, Israeli, Palestinian, Greek)
- Area of Study 4: Film music (including music written for film and games and other music included in films and games)
- Area of Study 5: Conventions of Pop (popular music from 1950s – present day)

Students can also complete graded examinations on their instrument or voice via our links with our local music hub, Severn Arts and their team of visiting teachers.

SEND and Vulnerable Learners:

In the music department, we also strive to increase access for our students with special educational needs (SEND) by implementing several inclusive strategies:

1. **Differentiated instruction:** Our music curriculum is differentiated to meet the diverse needs of SEND students. Teachers use varied methods to accommodate different learning needs and abilities, ensuring that every student can engage with the curriculum effectively.
2. **Specialist support:** We have specialist teaching assistants trained in SEND who work alongside classroom teachers to provide additional support where required. These teaching assistants offer one-on-one support for specific needs.
3. **Collaboration with Communication Centre staff:** The department regularly communicates with the school's SENDCo team and support staff to share insights and strategies for supporting students and ensures a cohesive approach to each student's education.
4. **Parental involvement:** We actively involve parents and carers in the music education process, keeping them informed about their child's progress and providing resources for support through homework tasks and listening activities and our extra-curricular programme.

Music Partnerships:

Our department also benefits from several key partnerships:

1. **Local music hub partnership:** We collaborate closely with our local music hub, Severn Arts, which provide instrumental tuition, additional school resources, additional workshop opportunities for our students. This partnership allows us access to workshops, and performance opportunities that enrich our music program.
2. **Music education organisations:** We have recently established connections with the Performing Arts department at Halesowen College. These partnerships include visiting workshops, performances, and specialised support for students, showing them the opportunities and further studies that are available in 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.

Instrumental tuition:

Our department is partnered with the local music Severn Arts, who offer one to one or group tuition of the following instruments:

- **Strings:** Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
- **Woodwinds:** Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone
- **Brass:** Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba
- **Percussion:** Drums
- **Keyboard:** Piano
- **Guitar:** Acoustic, Electric, Bass
- **Voice:** Singing lessons for a variety of vocal styles

Pricing and policies:

Students can sign up for instrumental lessons by completing a consent and payment form [here](#). Prices vary depending on if these lessons are individual, groups or 20 minutes or 30 minutes.

- Group Lesson: £8.60
- Individual 20 minute: £17.20
- Individual 30 minute: £25.80

Support for parents and carers:

Instrument loan: It is possible to loan instruments through Severn Arts directly. For students in receipt of pupil premium/free school meals and families facing financial difficulties there is a range of financial support available through Severn Arts.

Financial support: Families facing financial difficulties can apply for further assistance through Severn Arts [here](#). This is an application to reduce the price of the instrumental tuition lessons.

Severn Arts also provide a range of different music groups, orchestras, bands and choirs for students to join. For more information on what is available please see here:

<https://www.severnarts.org.uk/Pages/Category/join-a-group>

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

Our department offers a range of clubs and ensembles that students can join outside of regular lesson time, these cater to a variety of musical interests and skill levels. These ensembles provide opportunities for students to collaborate, perform, and further develop their musical talents.

In 2026/27 our programme includes:

1. **Junior choir:** Open to all students on our Borrington Road site, the junior choir performs in school events such as our year 7 open evening, termly concerts and assemblies.
2. **Senior choir:** An ensemble for singers on our Hillgrove site, focusing on more challenging works.
3. **Music technology group:** For students on our Hillgrove interested in developing their music technology skills and writing and realising their own songs by multi-tracking and editing.
4. **Junior ukulele group:** For students on our Borrington Road site who wish to learn a new instrument or develop the skills learnt during lessons further.
5. **Senior ukulele group:** For students on our Hillgrove site who wish to learn a new instrument or develop the skills learnt during lessons further.
6. **Keyboard club:** Open to students who wish to learn a new instrument or have a dedicated time to practice using the department's facilities or receive feedback from their teachers on their progress.
7. **School Show:** Rehearsals take place twice a week from the summer term until the end of the autumn term for our annual school show which is '*Mary Poppins JR.*' which will be performed in December 2026.

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.

Musical Performances:

The department offers multiple performances and concerts throughout the academic year. These opportunities are intended to build the confidence of students and involve them in the performing arts community, developing their social skills. Students have opportunities to perform in assemblies for all year groups, to inspire more students to join our extra-curricular programme and encourage our younger students to be involved in our concerts.

Our performances at KC1 are:

- Christmas Showcase
- Annual School Show (4 performances)
- Spring Showcase
- Summer Showcase
- Annual Trust Wide Showcase

Music Department Trips:

The music department schedule several trips throughout the school year. Students pay towards these trips via parent pay and we have limited spaces dependant on the trip. The events and venues proposed for visits this academic year so far are:

- Birmingham Hippodrome
- The Lyceum Theatre, Covent Garden
- Symphony Hall, Birmingham
- Halesowen College
- Malvern Theatre
- Performance at Kidderminster Town Hall

In the future

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

The KC1 music department would like to further develop our provision for the students, some of these changes include:

- Further developing links with other local musical venues to engage students in musical workshops and visit further live performances.
- Continuing to improve student attendance at our extra-curricular sessions.
- Improving the visibility of music around the school by increasing the amount of performance opportunities during assemblies, at lunchtimes and to other year groups during drop down days.
- Further improving our links and performance opportunities within the local community.