

Music Development Plan

Summary: Fortis Academy

(2025-26)



Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Eleanor Miles (Head of Performing Arts)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Clare Hayes (AAHT, Director of the Imagination Faculty)
Name of local music hub	Services for Education
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 section details what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

The music curriculum at Fortis Academy aims to develop pupils' composition, appraising and performing skills through well planned and sequenced schemes of work that give pupils the opportunity to learn to play various instruments, understand music theory and compose their own music. The curriculum nurtures students' creativity by gradually building their skills and confidence through scaffolded tasks to promote a love of music and an understanding that can support students who wish to pursue music at KS4 and beyond. The curriculum is designed to promote a love of all music, broadening student's minds and building their cultural capital, whilst also preparing students wishing to study music at KS4 for the BTEC Level 2 Music in Practice course they will study at Fortis Academy.

Our music curriculum takes guidance from the model music curriculum ensuring that it covers aspects including, singing, performing, composing and appraising. Ensuring that it is inclusive for all, whether students have prior music training and can play instruments to a high level, if they are new to music or if they have a SEND need. This is done through adaptive teaching such as the scaffolding of practical tasks and pace of delivered information, mixed ability classes to promote social skills and teamwork, discipline and patience and engagement. We encourage pupils' love for music by exposing them to music from various cultures and backgrounds, such as world music, Western classical music and Blues.

The following areas of study covered in key stage 3 are:

- Year 7 – African Drumming and elements of music, keyboard skills, Ukulele, Chinese music, Theme and Variation, Singing

- Year 8 – Keyboard skills, Mixcraft, Reggae, Blues, Samba and Indian
- Year 9 – Keyboard skills, Film music, Ensemble development, Songwriting, Britpop, Mixcraft development

The KS3 curriculum has been developed into a spiral curriculum, where students in year 7 develop an understanding of the musical elements whilst learning to play multiple instruments through various instrumental and singing activities. In Year 8 students will expand on their prior knowledge and engage in styles of music which they may not have experienced before, building their cultural awareness. Students will perform in ensembles, sing as a whole class and compose music enhancing their appreciation of musical cultures around the world. In year 9 students develop their ensemble skills and how to rehearse effectively in, developing their independence, through rehearsal and performance.

At Fortis Academy, we work closely with our local music hub and offer all students the option to take on peripatetic instrumental lessons within school. This is accessible for all students including SEND students. Students are also encouraged to then take graded music exams.

Students receive 1 hour of music teaching every week.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This section outlines the range of opportunities provided 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.

Fortis Academy works closely with Services for Education who provide peripatetic lessons outside of lesson time to our students. Students can either have one to one or group teaching. Lessons are provided in cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, cornet, trombone, guitar, drums and steel pans. Fortis Academy can provide funding for Pupil Premium students.

Outside of lesson time, students from all year groups can access extra music during break and lunchtimes; students have access to the classroom and to music technology, such as our in-house recording studio. Students can also take part in after school clubs such as the school choir and school band which take place every week.

Part C: Musical experiences

This section outlines other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Fortis Academy provides many opportunities for students to perform. We put on a school musical every other year, where auditions are open to all students. We have performance events throughout the school year, where parents are invited to see the students showcase their skills. We have annual concerts at Christmas and in the Summer Term. We also invite all students and staff to sing at our Christmas carolling service outside of school on the last day of term. We run an extra-curricular choir, who are asked regularly to sing at Fortis Academy events, showcasing their talent and hard work and building their confidence and resilience.

In the future

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

Fortis Academy plans to develop the music curriculum by implementing further opportunities for students to use music technology in classrooms. In line with the whole-school DigitalByDesign policy, students will be given a range of opportunities to use iPads and computers in their music lessons. Using technology will advance students' knowledge and skills, preparing them for the next phase of their education and the working world.

Further information (optional)

Our local music hub, Services for Education - [*Music Services in Schools | Services for Education | Birmingham*](#)