



# Music development plan summary: *Spa School Bermondsey*

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Lauren Cairns
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Georgina Quigley
Name of local music hub	Southwark Music Services
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Southwark Music Services

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.

Music is an integral part of life at Spa School and all pupils have regular opportunities to participate in musical activities and learning. The curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum and highly adapted to cater specifically to our pupils needs. Pupils learn the interrelated music skills through topic-based lessons. The lessons are practical-based and include opportunities to learn instruments and regularly perform. The essential nature of music in our school creates an engaging, happy and supportive environment for our pupils at all ages encouraging our pupils to grow, learn and thrive at every level whilst preparing them for the future.

Through the music curriculum, students learn vital social and communication skills through ensemble practise and develop confidence by being given regular solo performance opportunities in front of their peers and our school community. Music allows our students to express themselves creatively by learning fundamental music skills. They do this through:

- playing instruments
- learning how to use computer-based music software
- playing as part of an ensemble
- composing and reading music

These skills allow the students at Spa to learn and achieve at every level, with regular opportunities to share their musical knowledge and talents with peers, and at times parents. Students are taught to reflect on their own and others' work and how to provide constructive feedback, and how to build on this. Music is taught through weekly lessons and clubs.

Each key stage has 1x 45-minute music lesson every week taught by a teacher. **Key Stage 3** students learn the importance of sound and silence. Students are introduced to rhythm and pitch on different instruments. The concept of following a leader is introduced through a range of music games and pupils understand that it is important to take turns and work as a team. Students start to learn the basics of graphic notation, clapping rhythms and simple drumming patterns. They start to learn to play the ukulele, keyboard, recorder and steel drum.

**Key Stage 4** students start to learn how the concepts of music work together. Students begin to work more independently to create compositions by applying the concepts of music with guidance. Students in this key stage are taught to read and write music and to use computer-based music software. Pupils' compare music from the 1800s to the 2000s and learn how to use technical language to discuss similarities and differences. Students in KS4 develop technique on a range of instruments such as the ukulele, keyboard, recorder and steel drum.

For our MLD pupils, they are able to select Music as an "Option" in **Key Stage 5** and achieve accreditation through WJEC.

Students in classes that do not take Options continue to have weekly music lessons which are based around enhancing performance, aural recognition and composition skills through topic-based learning.

Our curriculum is written by our music curriculum lead Lauren Cairns, who is a music specialist. We subscribe to Charanga for curriculum support and regularly partner with Southwark Music Hub for additional guidance and opportunities.

## 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.

Students are offered the opportunity to join a variety of musical instrument clubs once a week; this is part of our Special Interest offer. The school regularly partners with Southwark Music Services to deliver guitar sessions for pupils who have shown interest in developing their instrumental knowledge. This concludes with a performance to peers and staff.

Every other year we partner with Multi-Story Orchestra to participate in choir workshops and learning songs to perform in the community.

In the Spring term all pupils participate in the Variety Show. Students perform in front of peers, staff and parents.

## 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 Spa School Bermondsey we provide regular music experiences to all pupils. These include

- Multi-story Orchestra KS3 and 4, identified students from secondary perform in front of parents and the local community outside of school. Complimentary tickets are available to all staff and families.
- Annual Professional Pantomime- All students and their families were offered tickets to watch a Pantomime.
- Annual Variety Show, students perform and are part of the audience
- Performance at assemblies, some secondary pupils have showcased their knowledge by performing at assemblies in front of staff and peers.

## In the future

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

We appreciate the impact that music making has on child development and the employment opportunities it can lead to. We are committed to providing a broad, high quality music curriculum and regularly update our music offer to ensure this is achieved. For the academic year 24-25 we have identified the following actions:

- Teachers who are teaching music will receive additional training in delivering the music curriculum to enhance the quality of music lessons
- Students will have more opportunities to attend performances by professionals in the community
- Opportunities to access Music Technology sessions with a trained professional from the industry
- Annual training for teachers on the importance of music in child development and how to deliver high-quality lessons