

Music Department

Curriculum Intent and Vision

“Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education” Plato

Music is a practical and unique subject as it uses sound in predominately a non-verbal, but expressive way. Our vision is to build upon pupils’ previous musical experiences and to ignite a passion and curiosity for learning about various aspects of the subject. Our music lessons at King Egbert School will be about learning in and through music in order to develop pupils’ imagination and creativity; skills and knowledge and building their self-esteem and self-discipline that will lead to higher standards across the whole curriculum.

There are a number of key musical strands that this will work through:

- **Performing/playing**
- **Singing**
- **Composing**
- **Improvising**
- **The Theory of Music**
- **Critical engagement (listening, appraising, evaluating, describing, identifying, aural perception and other aspects of musical learning)**

These strands of Music will be taught and developed together to build personal skills that can not only be drawn upon within music lessons and other subject areas, but also beyond school life and in future employment. It is important to us that our Music Curriculum will embrace our cultural diversity and values here at King Egbert School and support pupils in becoming well-rounded, expressive individuals.

All pupils will be able to access a rich and varied programme of extra-curricular activities both within school and out in the wider community. Music at King Egbert School will encompass active learning, enjoyment, opportunities to make music together and be able to express one’s thoughts and feelings and most importantly be fully inclusive.

Key Stage 3 Music

Each class in Year 7,8 and 9 have one period a week in music. The curriculum is supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities both at lunchtime and after school. The department also have several visiting peripatetic staff on hand to teach individual lessons (strings, brass, woodwind, percussion, piano, vocals, electric and acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drum kit and electric keyboard).

In Year 7 students cover a number of areas including: performing and composing on keyboard, rhythm work, hooks and riffs, graphic scores, playing the ukulele, programme music and instruments of the orchestra.

In Year 8 students cover a number of areas including: Jazz and Blues, chord structures, music in the 1950's and 60's and The Beatles, Reggae and Variations.

In Year 9 students cover a number of areas including: Film Music, Musicals, Minimalist Music, Samba and What Makes a Good Song?

Key Stage 4 Music

Students who currently opt to study music at GCSE follow the AQA Music 8271 syllabus.

There are 3 components to the course:

- 1. Understanding Music = 40%**
- 2. Performing Music = 30%**
- 3. Composing Music = 30%**

Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts. Students will have opportunities to use music technology, perform, compose, listen, and understand music.

Students will be able to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of musical elements, musical context, and musical language through four Areas of Study:

- 1. The Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910**
- 2. Popular Music**
- 3. Traditional Music**
- 4. Western Classical Tradition since 1910**

Understanding Music (Listening and Appraising)

The exam is divided into two sections. Section A = Listening and Section B = Contextual understanding. The exam is 1hr and 30 mins.

Performing Music:

You will **perform twice, once as a soloist and once as part of an ensemble** or group, and your combined performances must last a minimum of **four minutes in total**. At least **one minute of this must be your ensemble** performance.

Composing Music:

You will compose **two** different pieces of music. One will be written in response to a **brief** sent out by the exam board and the other is a **free** composition. The **two pieces together** must last no less than **three minutes**.