

# Music development plan summary: Stephenson Academy

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Leigh Siddon
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Leigh Siddon
Name of local music hub	Milton Keynes Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Gareth Cirket Milton Keynes Music Service (TBC)

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 a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It reflects culture and society and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to appreciate the world in which they live. Music brings people together and helps children to feel part of a community.

At Stephenson Academy, our vision for our music curriculum is that music is an enjoyable experience for all of our SEMH students. Our ambition is that children develop the confidence to make music together and are able to share positive experiences that foster creativity through regular composition / listening and discussion activities using a range of musical instruments and music software.

We are developing a support programme with the Milton Keynes Music Service for students in Key Stage 2 and in our KS3 and KS4 Explorer pathways to engage and inspire our pupils in Music lessons. Music lessons will be timetabled for 45 minutes per week.

Assessment opportunities are linked to a BTEC Level 1 Introductory qualification in Performing Arts for KS4 students.

In addition to the Music Service provision, we also provide specialist 1:1 music session with an external music tutor two days per week (Monday and Friday) for students across KS2 to KS4 who express a keen interest in developing their musical talents. Students are also encouraged to work together to perform as a band at end of term performances in the Autumn and Summer Terms.

The Music room is well resourced with acoustic and electric bass guitars and amplifiers, a piano and keyboards, and a full drum set. The Music room also has its own dedicated sound booth as well. The Music room has its own Apple iMac that has Garage Band software to allow students to develop their own sounds and beats and create their own songs if they are interested in this aspect of music.

At KS4 students are also able to complete BTEC units as part of a BTEC Level 1 Introductory Award / Certificate in Performing Arts if they develop to the level of being able to rehearse and perform a piece of music.

For more details on this qualification please follow the link below:

[Performing Arts \(L1 Introductory\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

**Potential next steps:**

- Confirm offer with the Milton Keynes Music Service
- Explore ways to incorporate more practical, hands-on music-making activities into the curriculum to engage students and support their learning
- Investigate opportunities for cross-curricular links between music and other subjects to reinforce and apply students' musical understanding. (For example, the link between 'Amazing Grace' hymn, the Slave Trade and the local town of Olney in our Year 8 History studies).

## Part B: Music tuition

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.

The Music room at Stephenson Academy is used all day on Mondays and Fridays for 1:1 Music sessions and is part of our extra-curricular intervention programme, which is open to all of our students to participate in if they wish to do so.

Overview of the Music Timetable is overseen by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and he works with a member of the Inclusion team, who has a keen interest in Music, and an external tutor to develop a programme of 1:1 music tuition for our SEMH students. The aim of the Music room is to give students some 1:1 tuition in a safe professional learning environment. The 1:1 sessions are designed to help the student develop their skills at a pace they are comfortable with and are often linked to them learning certain songs so are progressive in nature.

Currently there are 13 students who are accessing the 1:1 Music tuition. Sessions on a Monday and Friday with sessions ranging from 20 mins to 45 mins slots. 10 students are from KS3 and 3 from KS4.

Gareth Cirket, from the Musicians Co-Op of Milton Keynes, is our external tutor, and he encourages students to develop their musical talents in guitar (both acoustic and electric), drums and piano tuition depending on a student's particular interest. Students are able over time to be able to read guitar tablature, and in some cases musical notation.

A member of our Inclusion team also assists in guitar and drum tuition, using his extensive music skill set, and this member of staff also uses music as a strategy to enable some of our students to regulate themselves using music as an expression as a way to manage challenging behaviour.

Students also have access to a state-of-the-art sound booth and recording equipment, and our tutors are able to use Garage band to record multi tracks of students and produce fully recorded songs via an iMac computer.

These recordings can be emailed home for parents and students to enjoy. There is a profound sense of pride and achievement that can be achieved by students in their pursuit of music and our music offer can be differentiated to cater for various levels of ability and is all inclusive. Students perform for the school community twice per academic year.

As part of the 1:1 music sessions, students can choose to sing instead of learning an instrument if they would prefer to do this instead.

Success stories linked to support in Music have led to work experience opportunities at a local music shop, Rock Hard Music, in Wolverton, Milton Keynes and one former student has also progressed on to studying music at Milton Keynes College of Further Education.

Students have also performed outside of School hours at Rock School, as part of a Musical Showcase at the Craufurd Arms music venue in Wolverton Milton Keynes.

**Potential next steps:**

- Explore the possibility of introducing a school choir or other musical ensemble to further develop pupils' vocal and ensemble skills.
- Consider organising more frequent musical performances, such as termly concerts or showcases, to celebrate the musical achievements of pupils.
- Investigate ways to involve parents and the local community in the school's musical activities, such as inviting them to attend performances or participate in workshops.

## 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.

Stephenson Academy provides pupils with a range of musical experiences, including our 1:1 music tuition, visits from the Milton Keynes Music Service and visits to the pantomime at Milton Keynes Theatre. These experiences expose pupils to diverse musical genres and performance styles, broadening their musical horizons.

Students are also encouraged to develop their talents to the level that they are able to perform, either individually or as part of a school band, in end of term showcases at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms.

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## In the future

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

Stephenson Academy is interested in exploring the possibility of further developing its music curriculum with the Milton Keynes Music Service as well as offering outside provider musical cultural workshops to its pupils. This would provide an opportunity for pupils to develop more cultural understanding and potentially lead to further musical opportunities.

Potential next steps:

- Develop the musical offer with the Milton Keynes Music Service
- Research and evaluate different outside providers of musical cultural experiences.
- Ensure schemes of work for music are evident.

- Further develop and map cross-curricular links with music in other subjects, assemblies and form times.
- Ensure music is added to the school development plan and that CPD opportunities are provided for staff.
- Music interventions are evaluated and assessed.

## Further information (optional)

For further information please see the links below:

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Milton Keynes Music Service:

[Milton Keynes Music Service](#)

Gareth Cirket Music:

[Gareth Cirket](#)

Milton Keynes Music Co-op:

[School Services | Milton Keynes Music Co-operative \(mkmusiccoop.com\)](#)