

Music development plan summary: *Etonbury Academy*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	09/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	09/2026
Name of the school music lead	Michael Francis
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Luke Jones
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Inspiring music

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.

Curriculum music

At Etonbury Academy, we aim to provide a wide Music Curriculum for Key Stages 2, 3 and 4.

In year 5 students receive 1 hour of lessons per cycle.

In years 6, 7 and 8 students receive 2 hours of music lessons per cycle.

In year 9 students receive 1 hour per cycle of music lessons.

All lessons follow the modular style throughout the year with the topics stated, and are assessed based on either performance, composition or a test of knowledge throughout the unit. Each year is taught in form groups.

Students will learn recorders, singing, piano and have options to move onto instruments such as guitar, bass and drums throughout their progression based on the unit as well as based on individual progress made by the students.

There is a big push to give students who do play and learn their own instruments outside of school or via peripatetic learning to bring in and use their instruments

in class as this will help embed their learning as well as provide more inclusion of all instruments.

Year 5	Pulse and rhythm	Pitch names and staves	Recorders	Recorders
Year 6	Instruments of the Orchestra	Glockenspiels	Fanfare/ Keyboards	Vocal
Year 7	Musical elements/ vocal	Instruments/ vocal	Rhythm and beats	Band work
Year 8	Ground bass	Blues	Foley art	Percussion
Year 9	British history	Ensemble	Music tech	Film music

KS4 students receive 5 hours of music per cycle and work follows the guidance material from the Edexcel specification. This curriculum consists of a study of 8 set works of varying different genres as well as a performance module and a composition module which are assessed as coursework earlier in Year 11 completed with a GCSE exam in June in year 11.

A link to the specification can be found [here](#).

At Key Stage 4 we offer intervention sessions for GCSE students to get a further in depth analysis and preparation for their coursework as well as set work features. This runs 3 days after school from Tuesday to Thursday with select allocations for other days if necessary.

Co-curricular music

At Etonbury we currently offer a range of instrument lessons both via private and through our partnership with Inspiring music.

Currently we employ 3 private teachers who provide lessons on strings, guitar/bass and piano. All students are offered the opportunity to enter for grading if they so wish via RSL, Trinity or ABRSM for example.

Through Inspiring Music we offer further lessons on instruments such as: Brass, piano, horns or drums. Information on Inspiring and the full range they have to offer can be found [here](#).

This year, we currently have 48 students learning a wide range of instruments and are expecting that number to rise as the year progresses.

Outside of lesson times we also offer 3 lunchtime clubs for students to be a part of (Monday, Thursday and Friday).

These clubs currently have 15 students split over the 3 days, each day being specified for a different age and skill set. Currently these classes are only available to KS3 and above but there are plans to add further dates to the younger groups for years 5 and 6 to participate in.

All of the lunchtime clubs are free for students to join and serve to provide a space for students to learn and develop as part of an ensemble.

Musical Events

Musical clubs for the 25/26

For this academic year there are numerous bands and lunchtime clubs planned.

Lunchtime activities currently are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Each day is specified for different age and ability groups so all participating students feel able to join and take part no matter where they are in their journey.

Monday is our year 10 rock/punk who formed just before the summer holidays. Over the summer they have performed at local fairs and continue to work on their musicianship inside and outside of school.

Thursday is our mixed group of students ranging from Year 8 - Year 10. This is our beginner to intermediate group with rotating instrumentalists for different songs. They will be working on a variety of songs from 80's pop to rock classics, some of the students have been working as a band for a couple of years and some even involved in previous end of year shows to help with their knowledge and understanding of producing live content.

Friday is our GCSE core group who have, between them, nearly 20 years of learning, playing and performing. This smaller group is currently developing their own songs and learning challenging music pieces set by the teachers in order to push and challenge them further.

All of these clubs are available for any student KS3 onwards to attend or come along to if they are interested in any of the performance aspects of music.

We also have our Young Voices club designed for our juniors (KS2) which runs on a Tuesday after school for those students wishing to get involved with several events. In the past students have performed at high profile shows. This involvement with music at a young age helps to give students confidence going forward in school and aims to inspire students to continue their learning and development.

Shows planned for the 25/26 year.

Currently planned is our Christmas show focusing on a celebration of culture within the arts field. As well as music there will be a highlight on dance, poetry, art all with a cultural link or twist designed to highlight new sounds and sights that students might not have previously been exposed to.

Outside the classroom.

As part of our partnership with Inspiring music and other independent peripatetic teachers, we offer a wide range of lessons to students from years 5 onwards. These lessons consist of either 20-30 mins lessons on the students chosen instrument.

Currently we have available a multitude of instruments including: piano, drums, guitar/bass, strings and brass.

In the future

Future plans.

Curriculum plans: Over the last few years there has been a push towards updating and modernising the music curriculum to show students the different types of roles that are available going forward and allowing them a new perspective of what it means to be in the music business. This has started with adding the concept of foley art in year 8 which has been a very popular and successful unit.

There has also been a big push on instrumental learning - giving students the opportunity to experience new ideas and concepts as well as letting them learn how to play and perform. This has been implemented in years 8 and 9 so far with the plan to slowly integrate years 7 and finally 6 as part of this plan allowing hopefully for a bigger uptake and involvement in music at Etonbury.

Going forward there are plans to start looking into other KS4 pathways - moving towards a more practical based qualification with involvement in the entire music business and industry with the inclusion of sound and lighting being a big part to play in allowing students who want to be involved and have interests in music to take part.

Musical experiences: There are plans and discussions being had with studio personnel about allowing and having students work towards recording their own music in a professional setting. The idea being that students would be

responsible for their work and progress as well as having the target of a professionally recorded piece of music at the end. These talks are ongoing with more information to follow.

There are also plans to start showcasing talent with masterclasses and specialists in a specific field of music, the idea being to help inspire passion with the students seeing someone who has had multiple years of success and enjoyment from their careers.

We are also hopeful that we can branch off into the community with our musical talents here at Etonbury, keeping things local at first but hopefully beginning to move further afield to present the skills and students to a wider audience. This might include local shows and events, taking part in competitions which would give the students something to strive for and work towards, as well as trying to give back to communities in the area that may need assistance. We believe that striving for these outdoor ventures will help bring people together as well as create a better working environment within the music department itself.