



Stratton School Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2027
Date this summary was published	June 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Cate Lawson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Cate Lawson
Name of local music hub	BLMK Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Inspiring Music, RBO, Music In The Round

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.

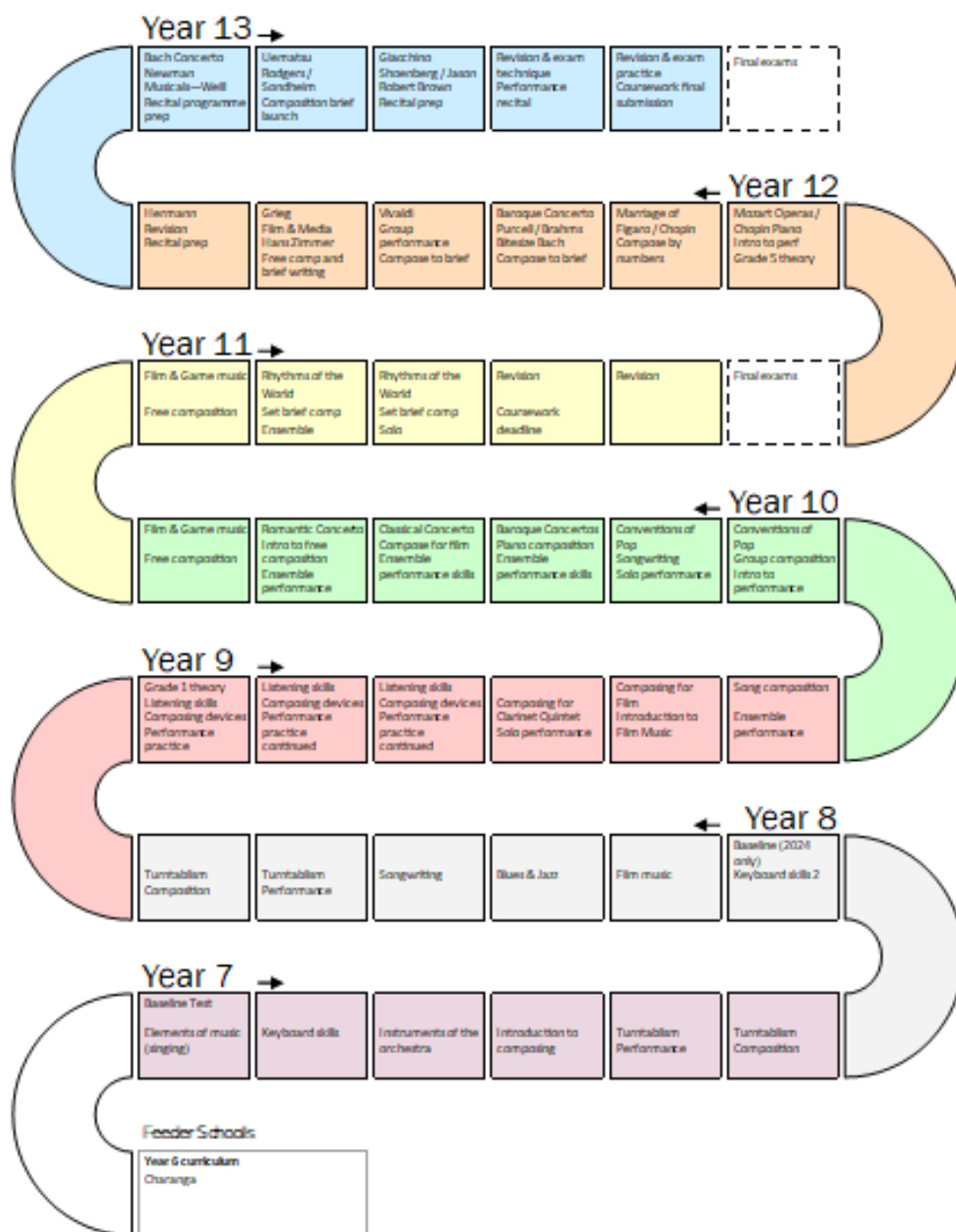
Stratton School has a state of the art music centre with two large classrooms fully equipped with computers, midi keyboards and standard keyboards. There are 5 practice rooms and a recording studio that are used in our lessons but are also bookable at break, lunch and after school. We are very well resourced thanks to the support of grant making trusts and our local communities with class sets of guitars and ukuleles, class percussion and more recently a class set of DJ turntables on hire from Inspiring Music. The music centre is a thriving hub of musical activity.

In KS3 students enjoy a wide and varied curriculum in their weekly 1 hour lesson. The curriculum followed is designed to ensure breadth of provision alongside vital skill development in a current and engaging framework. We have based our curriculum on recommended research such as the Model Music Curriculum and best practice.

Music GCSE is an option for all students showing an interest and aptitude in Music. Students choose their options in Year 9 at Stratton and we use this year to hone skills and prepare for the GCSE course. Students have 4 hours of music a fortnight in Year 9 which increases to 5 lessons a fortnight in Years 10 & 11 when we follow the specification for OCR GCSE Music.

We offer A Level Music as part of our Matt King 6th Form provision. In the 9 hours per fortnight dedicated to this we follow the specification for AQA A Level Music.

At Stratton our students are considered musicians and are encouraged to hone their skills as composers and performers.



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.

Individual and small group instrumental lessons are provided by our talented team of visiting music teachers. Information about costs and how to sign up for lessons can be found here:

Singing lessons with Mrs Bryony Woods – b_burnham@outlook.com

Drum lessons with Mr Steve Howard – drumsolo10@gmail.com

All other instruments with Inspiring Music - <http://inspiringmusic.co.uk/lessons-schools/overview>

Learning an instrument is an incredibly valuable skill and has scientifically proven benefits to cognitive and spatial awareness, resilience, mental health among many others. At Stratton we believe that every child should have the opportunity to learn an instrument and actively encourage students to discover new instruments through our curriculum offer (instruments of the orchestra, turntabling, singing etc) but also through inspiring trips, such as the opera Turandot at the Royal Ballet & Opera, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Cadogan Hall and our work with Phaedra Clarinet String Quintet at The Stables.

We are aware that learning an instrument is a financial investment that not all families can manage. As part of Meridian Trust's Pupil Premium Charter all students with pupil premium funding can access financial support for a 20 minute lesson in KS3 and 30 minutes at KS4. Additional funding may be available from Bedford Education Association (www.beacharity.co.uk)

In school we offer many opportunities to make music, with regular opportunities to perform in school, in our local community and further afield. Our regular extra-curricular offer includes Choir, Orchestra, Battle of the Bands and Keyboard Club. We also run a whole school, inclusive, full scale musical every year with opportunities for students to be in the cast, band and also part of our student tech team and stage crew.

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 Stratton we love to demonstrate our amazing students' talents and offer a wide variety of opportunities to do so.

Annual Musical – All year groups are invited to participate in our annual musical.

Previous shows have included Fame, Legally Blonde, The Wizard of Oz and our most

recent production The Addams Family. Auditions are held to identify lead roles but everyone is welcome to be in the show. Rehearsals are weekly on Wednesdays with addition rehearsals as we near show time. Students who play instruments to a good standard are invited to be in the band and work alongside our professional musicians. We also have a large number of students who work as stage crew and lighting and sound technicians. Next year's production is Into The Woods. Cast and crew of the outgoing show are invited to attend the mystery launch of the next show, where possible by going to see a production of it.

Stratton Cabaret Nights – These are our school concerts and are a termly opportunity to showcase work from the extra curricular clubs but also solos and small group performances. Again there is a student stage crew and tech team to support these events.

StratFest – is a bi-annual multi-stage music festival and fete style event that takes place on the school field (weather permitting). This event brings organisations from across our local community to perform from steel bands, to local choirs, school performances, local dance and drama school acts as well as demonstrating the talents of our Stratton students.

Biggleswade Light Switch On – Stratton are proud to attend this annual event and perform in our local community to bring in the festive season.

Meridian Arts Festival – this is an annual event run across all Meridian Schools and is an opportunity to showcase the best of what Stratton has to offer in the Performing Arts.

Music Leaders – Stratton students are invited to apply to become Music Leaders. These music leaders support staff in the smooth running of the department, run clubs and organise additional events including a Charity Talent Show that raised £600 for Cancer Research.

Battle of the Bands – Stratton heats are held to nominate our best representative to take part in the Inspiring Music Battle of the Bands competition, battling with the best of the best across schools in Bedfordshire.

We run a series of trips and visits to inspire and engage our students and give them opportunities to see a wide range of styles and genres. These have included trips to the theatre to see musicals, a trip to the opera and workshops and a concert with a clarinet quintet.

In the future

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

Future aims for the department are:

To grow the number of students learning an orchestral instrument and develop our orchestra

To continue to increase the numbers of students choosing GCSE and A Level Music by developing stronger music technology links and utilising the Dj-ing/Sequencing options for performance. We hope to expand GCSE to 2 classes to offer a traditional and a technology option.

To run a school tour starting with a choir trip to Disneyland to perform in the park and elsewhere in Paris.

Further information

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.

BLMK music hub <https://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/blmk-music-hub> have a local plan for music education that might provide useful information.

Meridian Trust's curriculum overview for music can be found here.

<https://www.meridiantrust.co.uk/how-we-make-schools-great/curriculum/music/>