

Music Development Plan: Cottesloe School Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jessanny Mayhew
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Simon Smith
Name of local music hub	Bucks Music Trust (BMT)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A
NOR:	1106 (Foundation, non-selective, non denominational)
FSM:	124

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

Key Stage 3: The KS3 curriculum has been reblocked to improve the skill progression and engagement of students. Listening tasks have been developed for Do Now to increase the amount of appraisal opportunities and a better balance between composing, performing and ensemble skills. We have successfully implemented and reviewed a new formative assessment criteria and summative scheme of assessment for KS3. This includes the further implementation and review of the DO Now listening model with whole class feedback on google quizzes to improve aural discrimination. We use the skills progression to help students to develop their musicianship rather than just providing new experiences. We have developed the use of chrome books to support adaptive teaching and including recorded visualiser videos to demonstrate performance as well as progressively more challenging sheet music. We have expanded ukulele units to include guitar following the increased interest in this instrument following some successful Bandjam workshops.

Year 9 Music has been restructured to develop the skills required for KS4 following the EDEXCEL Syllabus. The Year 9 curriculum is a bridging year building on the foundations in 7 and 8 to acquire skills needed for the GCSE in Year 10. Year 9 students have also been offered the opportunity to complete an Arts Award Bronze in the Summer term by completing four assessments: performing, live performance review, research into an Arts Practitioner and an Arts Skills Share. We have created a more bespoke composition

teaching programme for Year 9 students exploring ternary fanfares and theme and variation techniques. This will continue to be developed in 2025/6.

Key Stage 4: Students follow the EDEXCEL course. We hope to offer A Level Music in the future, although we haven't had sufficient numbers

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

Peri lessons are offered in voice, drums, guitar, strings, brass and piano. We have launched a wider social media campaign to advertise lessons and numbers of learners have risen in 2024/5. We have added a Brass teacher. We hope to add DJing lessons for September 2025. The School Website and QR code has been developed to make the peri staff information easier to access. We have increased the number of peri staff from BMT and advertised to 50% reduction for Disadvantaged Students. We have 4 instrument lessons funded for Looked After Students. The number of students currently learning and participating in extracurricular Music are:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GVlG6xGYOeagRnD_zlO9DDIVU3gTFGwTzulY9o7q-4Q/edit

Both members of Flute Choir have joined BMT Saturday Morning Orchestra as of April 2024. They also won bronze medals at the MK Festival in 2024 and Silver in 2025 in the small ensemble category. One student will be continuing with A Level Music at AHS in September 2025.

6 solo singers performed at MK Festival in 2025. All were given Merits/Highly Commended for their performances and one Year 8 student gained a bronze medal for her performance.

We have run two bandjam events to encourage students to create extra-curricular ensembles. We have had bands successfully perform at The Laser Light Show, MK Shopping Centre for Radio 5 Live and Brickstock.

LJP has run BOFA - Bucks Orchestra For All - which allowed 10 students to join 4 other secondary schools to create an orchestra, which we were unable to do independently in our own school. They performed at the Summer Concert in July.

Three of our Bands performed at The Laser Light Festival in October to an audience of 4,500. They were Sixth Form - Harakiri, The Four Seasons - Year 11 and The Cannisters - Year 10.

80 students took part in Aladdin and many others performed in our annual Christmas Concert in December 2024 raising 3,000 for the school.

A year 10 student is completing the 2025 Work in Theatre Course at MK Theatre. This will be our 4th student to complete the course. (1 female/3 male)

Part C: Musical Experiences

For 2025/6 we currently have planned:

- Battle of the Bands TBC with other local schools
- October: Annual Bandjam (performers)
- October:: Year 9/10 The Lion, The Witch, The Wardrobe (audience)
- November: Leighton Buzzard Christmas Festival Performance
- December: Christmas Production (performers)
- December: Christmas Concert (performers)
- January: Dear England Theatre Visit (audience)
- January: Year 11 Scripted Showcase (performers)
- March: MK Festival of Music (competitive performers)
- April: Honeycomb Festival - Dance (performers)
- April: Honeycomb Festival - Musical Theatre (performers)
- May: Year 10 Devised Drama Showcase (performers)
- May: Brickstock Music Festival (performers)

In the future

Curriculum Music Development for 2025/6:

1. Continue to improve differentiation activities of KS4 composition
2. Develop the listening assessments for Year 9 and KS4
3. Continue to develop musical literacy and aural analysis of music
4. Continue to develop reading of notation skills
5. LJP is leading all the ASTRA Subject Days for Music in 2024/5
6. Review the impact of Arts Award Bronze and develop to offer Arts Award Silver
7. Develop ensembles to create more challenging musicianship
8. Continue to develop and evaluate the impact of the composition scaffolding activities for Year 9

Extra-Curricular Music Targets for 2025/6:

1. Develop publicity of offer in year 6 transition and work with feeder schools to encourage younger students to take up instruments
2. Encourage participation of peri students in ensemble by asking teachers to give a taster of the repertoire
3. Form Stronger links with BMT
4. Continue to make use of social media to promote BMT and continue to encourage student participation in BMT ensembles
5. Off timetable taster rehearsals to encourage participation
6. Develop ensemble skills of students, such as through harmony, teacher doubling, for students who have been more limited to solo performance

Music Experiences Targets for 2025/6

1. Battle of the Bands with other schools
2. Continue to develop greater connections to musical anniversaries and landmarks
3. Continue to develop presence in the local community and with feeder schools

- through performance and through connections should we become part of a MAT.
4. Continue to develop careers in Arts education using links with MK Theatre and Get Into Theatre