

Music development plan summary: King Edward VI School, Bury St Edmunds

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023-24
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Richard Walmsley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Deri O'Regan
Name of local music hub	West Suffolk Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Abbeygate Sixth Form College

Part A: Curriculum music

KS3 Curriculum (Year 7–9)

<https://www.king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/KS3-23-24-CURRICULUM-MAP.pdf>

We are highly ambitious for our students and our department, and we consider the journey our students make from their primary schools right through to beyond Year 13. Preparing students for whom Music or Music Technology A Level(s) and BTEC and even specialist conservatoire might be an option is what drives us and forms part of our five-year development plan.

At the heart of our curriculum lies the learning of music through practical application. Over the course of KS3 every King Edward VI School student will learn to play the ukulele, guitar, and piano/keyboard, as well as sing, to a standard at which GCSE Music may both an appealing and a realistic KS4 option.

Our curricula are delivered over a two-week timetable, with each teaching period lasting 75mins. Additionally, music comprises part of the Performing Arts curriculum delivered to Y7. In this, Year 7 receive 75mins per week of whole class and small group singing. This means that:

- Year 7 – receive 75mins of timetabled music lessons per fortnight plus 75mins per week of Performing Arts - this equates to **113mins per pupil per week**.
- Year 8 – receive 75mins of timetabled music lessons per fortnight
- Year 9 – receive 75mins of timetabled music lessons per fortnight

KS4 Curriculum (Year 10–11)

[Year-10-Music.pdf \(king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk\)](#)

Our GCSE curriculum follows the two-year [Edexcel GCSE \(9-1\) Music](#) curriculum where students learn musically in three areas: Performance, Composition and Appraising. In Performance, students develop their skills using their chosen instrument or voice. In Composition, students learn to write their own music (acoustically and/or using technology) and choose from a wide variety of styles in which to do this. Students also study eight 'Set Works' and analyse a wide range of music from across the areas of study.

Although our timetable is fortnightly, KS4 music is allotted 2 teaching periods per week, meaning that Years 10 & 11 receive 150mins of timetabled music lessons per week. In addition, attendance at extra-curricular theory and musicianship sessions as well as attendance at some of our musical activities are strongly encouraged.

SEND provision

[Information - King Edward VI School \(king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk\)](#)

[Deaf Resource Base - King Edward VI School \(king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk\)](#)

As our curricula are practically based, this enables SEND and PP children to access the same outcomes as their non-SEND and non-PP peers. An in-house case-study of attainment in music across KS3&4 carried out in 2023-24 suggested that SEND and PP children in music classes routinely performed slightly above the non-SEND & non-PP class-averages.

Our practical curricula have also proved highly interesting and motivating to many of our deaf students. This has recently led to a significant number of deaf students choosing to study GCSE music in KS4.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

One-to-one instrumental lessons are offered on the full range of instruments including strings, woodwind and brass, as well as piano, organ, guitar, drums and voice. Pupils can opt for 20-minute lessons, either shared or individual, or a 30-minute individual lesson, all with a visiting music specialist. For this, a revolving timetable is published at the start of each term, allowing pupils to learn to plan their timetables and help them avoid missing the same academic class each time.

Fees for one-to-one instrumental lessons are calculated on pupils receiving 34 lessons per year. Payment can be made in full or in 2 equal instalments. Annual costs for 2024-25 are:

Lesson type	Annual cost	2 instalments of:	Price per lesson
20-min shared	£273.70	£136.85	£8.05
20-min individual	£389.30	£194.65	£11.45
30-min individual	£547.40	£273.70	£16.10

The school recognises the contribution that music makes towards the development of well-rounded young people. For students who are in receipt of Free School Meals or whose families are experiencing financial difficulties, financial assistance may be available.

Alongside instrumental lessons, pupils are able to partake in a variety of different ensembles including:

- Ex Silentio
- Ex Cathedra
- Kingettes
- King's Sinfonia
- String Group
- Brass group
- Wind Ensemble
- Flute Group
- Clarinet Choir
- "The Band"

In addition, we organise chamber music groups such as string quartets as particular instrumental combinations allow. Any student from Y7 and above who plays an appropriate instrument or enjoys singing is welcome to join any of the groups listed. Suggestions for new groups are also welcomed – this is how Kingettes came in to existence!

Our facilities are housed within the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) of the school and include:

- 1 x class teaching room with interactive whiteboard, classroom ukuleles, acoustic guitars and digital keyboards
- 1 x Mac-suite with 18 iMacs, midi-keyboards and digital-interface boxes, an interactive whiteboard and classroom ukuleles
- 1 x mini Mac-suite with 4 iMacs, midi-keyboards and digital-interface boxes
- 5 x practice rooms
- 1 x "Crush Hall" - large rehearsal space
- 1 x PAC Hall

Acoustic pianos are situated in every Music department classroom and practice room, as well as in the Mac-suites, the PAC Hall, the Crush Hall, and 2 rooms that are elsewhere in the school, the Foundation Room and the Lower Hall. A 2-manual digital

organ is also housed in the Crush Hall. There are also 3 acoustic drum-kits placed in the Crush Hall and 2 of the practice rooms. A collection of electric and bass guitars supplements our classroom acoustic guitars and support a number of our student bands.

Progress can be charted through various different methods. Many of our students pursue practical, performing and music theory grades including ABRSM and RSL; additionally, those guitarists, drummers and vocalists who form their own bands perform in 'gigs' outside of school, occasionally earning themselves some pocket-money. Concerts also provide an opportunity for developing skills, both in terms of repertoire and in ensemble performance. The department also supports the Drama department's annual Musical production by providing a pupil-based band; this allows various students to develop the skills needed to perform as a pit-band, a skill-set that could be useful both professionally and in support of community amateur dramatics.

Part C: Musical experiences

Routine performances held throughout the academic year include:

- Autumn Concert
- Spring Concert
- Summer Soirée
- Open Mic nights
- KEVI Carol Service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral
- KEVI Remembrance Service
- KEVI School production – Dec 2024: *Cats*
- KS4 GCSE Solo performance
- KS4 GCSE Group performance

All of these concerts and services are public, with many of our concerts being held in the PAC Hall. Our concerts are ticketed and these can be booked through TicketSource for a fee. These are all opportunities for our musical ensembles and prepared pupil-soloists to perform to a live audience.

We have an annual trip for GCSE Music students to visit London to see the live performance of the musical *Wicked*, which is one of their set works. Trips are also organised on an *ad hoc* basis to see professional concerts in local and regional venues such as the Apex in Bury St Edmunds, West Road Concert Hall in Cambridge as well as in Aldeburgh, Ipswich, Saffron Walden and London.

Professional artists occasionally come to King Edward's to perform with our students – in 2023 members of the Britten Sinfonia performed in our PAC Hall with some of our deaf students in a concert celebrating the life and work of deaf photographer Walton Burrell. We also have a close partnership with West Suffolk Music Hub, whose instrumental teachers teach many of our children and run many of our extra-curricular groups.

We promote to pupils that they seek opportunities to perform with external groups. As such, students of ours sing in both the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Youth Choir & the Voice Squad of Bury St Edmunds, and perform in the County's Youth Orchestra, Youth Wind Band, Young Strings, Youth Brass Band and Youth Jazz Orchestra. Some of our musicians have been members of Aldeburgh Young Musicians, and in the BBC Proms 2024 one of our musicians performed with the National Youth Orchestra as part of NYO Inspire in the Royal Albert Hall.

A number of our students are also keen to form and play in bands. We support this pupil-driven initiative by offering them space and equipment for them to use for rehearsals. Whilst they perform routinely in school for functions and Open Mic nights, they also get invited to perform at local area events and band nights.

In the future

The Music department ethos is centred on learning through performance. It is also focused on developing a through-curriculum, linking Primary music, through our own musical programme, up to VI Form and beyond. As a consequence, our development plan is concerned most with developing performance opportunities and building closer relationships with external organisations. Over the next 3-years we plan to:

- develop a curricular and extra-curricular partnership with Abbeygate Sixth Form College (the Music department will assume teaching responsibilities at ASFC in Sept 2024)
- develop specific musical relationships with all feeder primary schools including showcases and joint projects
- create a joint orchestra with ASFC – the Kingsgate Orchestra
- organise a biennial Music department tour, starting in July 2025
- refurbish the PAC Hall

Further information (optional)

Useful websites:

- [Course Finder - Abbeygate Sixth Form College \(abbeygatesfc.ac.uk\)](http://abbeygatesfc.ac.uk)
- <http://www.suffolkmusichub.co.uk>
- [Cathedral Choirs | St Edmundsbury Cathedral \(stedscathedral.org\)](http://stedscathedral.org)
- [Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Music Hubs | Arts Council England](http://www.artscouncil.gov.uk)
- [The Voice Squad Bury St Edmunds - We Sing All Sorts, And We Love To Perform!](http://www.bury.gov.uk)
- [Aldeburgh Young Musicians | Britten Pears Arts](http://www.aldeburghyoungmusicians.com)
- [NYO Inspire - The National Youth Orchestra](http://www.nyoinspire.org)

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