Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	**2026-2027**
Date this summary was published	**4/09/26**
Date this summary will be reviewed	**1/07/27**
Name of the school music lead	**J Stephenson**
Name of local music hub	**Wolverhampton Music Service**

This summary outlines how music is delivered at Smestow Academy through our curriculum, extra-curricular provision and wider musical experiences. It reflects our commitment to providing a broad, ambitious and inclusive music education for every student, in line with the National Curriculum and the Department for Education's National Plan for Music Education.

Part A: Curriculum Music

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to enable students to build musical knowledge and skills progressively from Year 7 through to Key Stage 4. Students develop confidence in performing, composing, listening and evaluating while learning to use both traditional instruments and modern music technology.

Lessons encourage creativity, collaboration and independent learning, allowing students to experience music from different cultures, historical periods and contemporary genres.

Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is designed to develop confident, creative and well-rounded musicians through a broad and progressive programme of study.

Year 7 establishes the foundations of music, introducing students to the elements of music, rhythm and notation, keyboard skills, orchestral instruments and popular music. Students develop core performance, composition, listening and musical literacy skills.

Year 8 builds upon these foundations through the study of world music, popular genres and music technology. Students explore African Drumming, Reggae, Blues and digital music production while developing ensemble performance, improvisation, recording techniques and musical interpretation.

Year 9 students study **Music Through Time** as part of a rotation of subjects, exploring the development of popular music from the **1950s to the present day**. Students investigate how musical styles, technology and cultural influences have shaped the evolution of modern music, while developing their understanding of key artists, genres and historical contexts.

Throughout the rotation, students develop their skills in **listening and analysis, performance, composition and music technology**, applying their knowledge to practical tasks and creative projects. This prepares students for further musical study by strengthening their musical understanding, confidence and independent musicianship.

This structured curriculum ensures students develop the knowledge, practical skills and confidence required for further musical study, including the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice, while fostering a lifelong appreciation of music.

Further details on the website are here: https://smestowacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Music.pdf

Part B: Extra Curricular music

Music extends beyond the classroom through a wide range of enrichment opportunities designed to inspire creativity, develop musical confidence and encourage lifelong participation. Students are encouraged to engage with music in a variety of ways through extra-curricular clubs, instrumental tuition and performance opportunities throughout the academic year.

Students have access to a range of activities including School Choir, Keyboard Club, Music Technology Club, Breaktime rehearsal sessions and small ensemble groups.

In partnership with Wolverhampton Music Service, students can also access specialist instrumental tuition, including guitar and drum lessons, delivered by experienced peripatetic teachers.

Students are encouraged to develop their skills further by joining ensembles, collaborating with others and performing regularly within the school community.

Throughout the year, students can showcase their musical achievements through a variety of events, including the annual school show, Mince pies and carols. These experiences allow students to develop confidence, stage presence, teamwork and leadership skills while celebrating their musical progress.

Our extra-curricular provision is inclusive and open to all students, regardless of prior musical experience. By providing opportunities to perform, create and collaborate, we aim to develop a strong musical culture where students feel valued, inspired and motivated to continue their musical journey.

Part C: Musical Experiences

Throughout the academic year, students are provided with opportunities to perform, support and experience a variety of musical events, including the **Christmas Concert, Macmillan Coffee Morning performances, Mince Pies and Carols, celebration evenings.** These events provide students with the opportunity to showcase their musical skills, collaborate with others and experience the excitement and responsibility of performing to a live audience.

Students are encouraged to take part in larger-scale productions, including the **annual school show**, where they can contribute as performers, musicians and members of a wider creative team. These

experiences help students develop important transferable skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication and organisation, while celebrating the achievements of students across different year groups.

Where possible, students also have opportunities to experience professional performances, workshops and musical activities outside of school. This includes visits to venues such as **Symphony Hall Birmingham** and other regional performance spaces, as well as engagement with visiting musicians, specialist teachers and arts organisations.

Future Development

Over the next academic year, the Music Department aims to continue developing an ambitious and inclusive music curriculum by strengthening progression from **Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4**, expanding extra-curricular opportunities and increasing student participation in performances and events.

Key priorities include further developing partnerships with **Wolverhampton Music Service** and local arts organisations, providing more opportunities for live music experiences, workshops and specialist tuition. The department will continue to embed **music technology** across the curriculum, develop links with post-16 providers and creative industries, and increase opportunities for student leadership through ensembles, performances and wider musical activities.

Through these developments, we aim to continue celebrating musical achievement while ensuring all students can develop their confidence, creativity and lifelong engagement with music.

Further Information

For further information about the Wolverhampton Music Service:
https://wolverhamptonmusicservice.org.uk/