

Music development plan summary: Bishop Stopford School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	September 2025-2026
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	November 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Janice Armstrong
Name of local music hub	NMPAT

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

At Key Stage three students have weekly one hour music lessons with a subject specialist. The music department is very well equipped and offers a range of traditional instruments and technology for use in lessons.

The Key Stage three curriculum is broad and balanced, and students successfully learn the skills needed for performing, composing, listening, and appraising. Please see further Music curriculum information at [Bishop Stopford School - Music](#). Students are timetabled one hour of Music a week at Key Stage 3. Students are provided with the following opportunities to systematically develop their skills in performing; composing; listening and appraising and to develop a wide musical toolbox to apply to their own compositions. Our Key Stage Three curriculum covers a wide range of musical styles and genres including: The Great Composers; Popular Music, and World Music.

Students develop their instrumental and vocal skills through a diverse range of topics and activities. In addition, students utilise music technology such as GarageBand to compose their own music.

Students benefit from an accompanist, offering 1-1 sessions for all exam students and the expert guidance of NMPAT staff, who collaborate with performance help for exams and lead a range of extra-curricular activities.

Students are encouraged to develop their musical skills in a safe and encouraging environment which is built on tolerance and respect.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage Four students have the option to study GCSE Music, following the Edexcel course. Students receive five hours of curriculum time per fortnight in year 10 and 4 hours per fortnight in

y11, as well as extra sessions with our in-house accompanist. The course focuses on musical performance; musical composition; listening and appraising skills.

Key Stage 5

At Key Stage 5 students have the option to continue their study and opt to study A level Music, following the Edexcel course. Students receive seven hours of curriculum time per fortnight. They are expected to use at least two hours of private study time per fortnight as designated Music curriculum time. The course focuses on musical performance, musical composition, listening and appraising skills.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Instrumental lessons are offered to all students, from our visiting NMPAT teachers. We offer voice, piano, violin, cello, woodwind, trumpet and lower brass, guitar and drum kit. These lessons are delivered as individual or small group sessions. The music department includes 4 practice rooms.

The school has a thriving range of extra-curricular groups, who rehearse weekly. These can vary depending on interest and pupils at the time. This year we run the following groups: Senior choir, Guitar Ensemble, Bishop Brass Band, Bishop Rocks, String Group, Wind Ensemble. All groups rehearse weekly and participate in three termly concerts. The Senior Choir and Brass Band also take part in the annual School Christmas service.

Our Brass Band has previously performed at Birmingham Symphony Hall and, in 2022, the Brass Band performed at the Royal Albert Hall School Proms and reached the finals of Music for Youth in 2022. In February 2025 the music department performed live music and a student pit including students from all key stages in a whole school production of 'Guys and Dolls' at the Lighthouse Theatre in Kettering.

Every October, our students perform at Peterborough Cathedral for an annual diocesan service of dedication.

A worship group rehearses alternate weeks, to prepare for Eucharist. This comprises guitars, drummer and singers.

All our music groups are open to all year groups.

A significant number of students also attend musical ensembles outside school, including County ensembles such as: County Youth Brass band; Youth orchestra, Youth concert Band, Big Band and Guitar Ensemble.

Our music rooms provide a warm, welcoming environment for all.

Students frequently utilise the rooms at lunchtimes to practise outside of lesson times.

Part C: Musical experiences

There are a broad range of musical performances and experiences offered free of charge to all students. These include Recital team visits from NMPAT.

Trips to professional concerts and shows are arranged for KS4 and 5 students.

In the future

In the future the Music Department plan to:

- Continue to embed use of music technology and composition work within the Key Stage 3 Music curriculum
- Continue to fortify close partnership links with NMPAT
- Re-introduce whole year group singing for Eucharist, starting with Year 7.