

Music Development Plan 2024-25

Manor High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Bernadette Woods
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub

This is a summary of how Manor High 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.

All pupils at Manor High School take music as a timetabled lesson as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 3, they can then opt to continue their studies at Key Stage 4. Our music curriculum at Manor High School centres around the technical, expressive and creative elements of the subject, as laid out in the national curriculum. Through their [music learning journey](#) we aim to engage and inspire pupils to explore and appreciate music from a variety of different cultures, genres and eras. The golden threads of performing, composing, and listening (analysis and appraisal) are woven throughout the curriculum. Pupils are given opportunities to create, compose, listen to and analyse music, developing their creativity, technical understanding and performance skills over time. Music allows pupils to combine the academic with the creative: The technical elements provide rigorous academic challenge, but true mastery of the subject also requires emotion, creativity and intuition.

Key Stage 3 pupils receive one 100-minute lesson per fortnight. Schemes of learning incorporate elements of the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021), and span a range of genres including Classical music, the Blues, Film music and Pop. To ensure depth and progression over time, the main instrument used in the classroom is the keyboard.

The year 7 curriculum lays the foundations and focuses on the development of core procedural knowledge. Pupils are introduced to the keyboard and ukulele, developing both solo and ensemble performance skills. In Years 8 and 9, pupils apply, refine and develop the keyboard skills acquired in Year 7. They learn to use a DAW (BandLab) to explore music technology as a creative compositional tool. They are encouraged to listen to and analyse music in increasing depth, cultivating the skills required at GCSE level.

A summary of our Key Stage 3 curriculum content is given below.

Year 7			
Foundations	Ensemble		The Orchestra
Exploring the building blocks of music through listening and singing.	An introduction to the ukulele and performing as a class ensemble.		Exploring the instruments and timbres in the four orchestral families – strings, percussion, woodwind and brass.
Developing foundational keyboard skills.	Exploring rhythm and rhythmic values.		
Year 8			
Musicology	The Blues		Video Game Music
Recognising and exploring musical eras from the Renaissance to the Romantic periods.	Understanding the development and conventions of blues music.		Exploring the use and purpose of music in different video games.
Performing classical repertoire on the keyboard.	Performing chords, bass lines and melodies.		Composing using sound effects.
Year 9			
Film Music	Minimalism	EDM	Popular Song
Analysing how music is used in different film genres and for different purposes. Creating soundtracks using techniques learned. Performing well-known film themes on the keyboard.	Exploring minimalist techniques and processes. Composing a minimalist piece using	Understanding the conventions of Electronic Dance Music. Arranging and	Analysing the structures and conventions of popular songs. Exploring the role of the Intro and Chorus within a song and discovering the pop convention of the ‘four chord song’.

	repetition and layering.	sequencing EDM tracks.	
--	--------------------------	------------------------	--

Key Stage 4 pupils can opt to take music as a GCSE subject, following the [OCR GCSE syllabus](#). They receive three 100-minute lessons per fortnight. We also offer an alternative pathway for skilled instrumentalists to study music outside of the timetabled curriculum as an enrichment subject, allowing them to gain an additional GCSE. Four Areas of Study are taught during the course, and pupils' knowledge and understanding of the musical styles is assessed in a listening examination. NEA work is developed throughout the course, where pupils demonstrate instrumental and/or vocal skill in solo and ensemble performances, and produce two original compositions which show a sound understanding of musical conventions.

Music Qualifications

Pupils are offered the opportunity to pursue the OCR GCSE Music course at Key Stage 4. Additionally, pupils across all key stages who receive peripatetic music tuition have the option to undertake graded music examinations with either Trinity or ABRSM.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive school where staff across all subjects are dedicated to equity and inclusion. In the music department, we provide opportunities for unrestricted music-making both during curriculum time and in extra-curricular music clubs. This commitment is central to our role within the school. We make adaptations to meet diverse learning needs, recognising that some students may need additional support to achieve their goals. The music department is a place where students feel safe and part of a like-minded, supportive group with a shared goal. We foster tolerance, kindness, and a genuine sense of community for all who engage in music-making.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and clubs, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

At Manor High School we offer a wide range of opportunities for pupils to sing and play music beyond the core curriculum. We encourage pupils to get involved in our extra-curricular activities in order to develop their performance abilities and musicianship outside of the classroom. Co-curricular provision includes our ensembles, groups and clubs and also our peripatetic music offer.

Instrumental and Vocal Ensembles and Music Clubs

Our music clubs and ensembles are free of charge and open to all students. Student leadership is encouraged through extra-curricular activities and pupils can contribute to the organisation of concerts and events, becoming Performing Arts Ambassadors.

Manor Voices is our school choir. It is a popular group that runs during tutor times and lunchtimes so that anyone wishing to develop their passion for vocal performance can attend.

MHS Orchestra is an ensemble for our instrumental players across all key stages. Students who play strings, woodwind and brass instruments can perform as part of a group.

Flute Group is a new ensemble which welcomes all flute players.

Year 7 Music Club gives pupils access to keyboards and ukuleles so that they can practice and develop their skills between lessons. Student ambassadors are on hand to help and demonstrate.

Ukulele Club is a student-led group for pupils who enjoy playing as part of a group and learning new chords and techniques.

In addition to these groups and clubs, we also encourage pupils to use the practice rooms at lunch, break and after school for independent practice and small ensemble rehearsals. Pupils should seek permission from their music teacher, and priority is given to GCSE students.

Peripatetic Instrumental Tuition

We provide opportunities for our students to access private instrumental tuition on site during the school day. We currently offer Piano, Keyboard, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drum Kit, Trombone, Cornet, Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute and Violin lessons, which are taught by seven different peripatetic teachers. Through these lessons, pupils receive high quality individualised tuition, allowing them to develop their instrumental skills to their full potential.

Most of our experienced music tutors offer individual lessons, and some also offer paired or small group sessions. The cost of these can vary between teachers, but are roughly £17 for a 30-minute individual lesson, £12 for a 20-minute individual lesson and £8 for a small group lesson. Music lessons are arranged privately between parents/carers and our instrumental teachers. Parents/carers interested in music tuition can contact the school in order to be referred to the relevant peripatetic teacher.

In certain circumstances, such as for students that access free-school meals, or those in care, music tuition is offered free of charge. Parents or carers can apply for this support through the school's finance department.

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.

We provide a range of opportunities for pupils to perform and showcase their talents both in school and outside.

Performing Arts Showcase Evenings take place annually and have a different theme each year (Back to the '60s, A Night at the Movies). These concerts are a real highlight and spotlight our large ensembles – singing groups and orchestra, and also include drama and dance performances.

Musicians are invited to perform to their peers during **House Assemblies**. These include both soloists and small ensembles and can be instrumental and/or vocal.

Manor's Got Talent is open to all performers. This is another opportunity for student leaders, who coordinate the preliminary auditions and shortlist the performers for the final live show. Finalists compete for the audience vote and 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes are awarded.

Whole-School Events throughout the school year provide opportunities for students to perform. We believe that the presence of live music enriches these events and provides a wonderful feel for parents and visitors to the school. These events include **Awards Evening**, which is a formal presentation evening where our most able musicians are asked to perform solos. **Open Evening** and Year 6 **Welcome Evening** give our students the opportunity to give more informal performances, busking in different areas of the school as visitors walk around. Students also provide music during our annual **Christmas Lunch**.

We have worked in partnership with **Leicestershire Music Service** for a number of years to give our singers the opportunity to perform as part of a massed choir at **De Montfort Hall** in Leicester. The most recent of these was themed around musical theatre and included a workshop day led by professionals.

We also believe that it is important for students to have access to high quality live music. Students are offered the opportunity to experience a live orchestra concert at least once per academic year. Our most recent visit was to De Montfort Hall to see renowned violinist Nicola Benedetti perform with the Philharmonia Orchestra. This trip was targeted at GCSE students and was also extended to key stage 3 musicians and members of the school orchestra.

In the future

These are our priorities for future years.

Continue to raise the profile of music across the school by providing further opportunities for pupils to experience live music. This could be from both their peers and professional musicians.

Further develop the Key Stage 3 curriculum to provide more opportunities for students to experience music from different world cultures.

Embed a culture of singing through the timetabled curriculum, starting with year 7 pupils. Work with Leicestershire Music Hub to plan and resource this.

Increase the uptake of GCSE Music as an option subject by consulting with other schools to develop strategies and ideas to attract more students.