

Music development plan summary: Rockwood Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Liam Cook
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Skye Loudon
Name of local music hub	SFE
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

Throughout KS3 Rockwood students gain a breadth of music experiences. They develop upon their experiences at KS2 when listening to, composing and performing music from a diverse range of eras, genres and styles. Over their three-year course they Performing Arts one hour a week with additional music drop down days and activities. Our students are all offered free music tuition with SFE peripatetic teachers. They also enjoy performances and have the opportunity to perform themselves. All units incorporate elements of listening, composition and performance in both solo and ensemble configurations.

Music at Rockwood is differentiated to ensure that students who play outside of school are challenged and those with special educational needs are supported. This support includes simpler compositions and more labelling and coding on the instrument.

In year 7 students learn to play the keyboard. They develop their understanding of reading music from KS2 and learn a range of pieces from different genres. They will also develop their composition skills using Samba as an instrument and genre base. Students learn about the style of music and how the instruments behave to produce their own work

within genre norms. The year 7 listening focus is on Pachelbel's Canon. This classical piece allows students to experience the orchestra as well as more traditional instruments including the harpsichord and lute.

Students continue to develop their composition skills in Year 8 through the pop genre. Students learn common chord progressions and study a range of artists to develop their own piece. Year 8 learn about African Drumming and participate in workshops and performances using these instruments. Students learn drumming notation and recording compositions. Their listening focus is on the film genre and how music builds images and emotions. Students explore key composers and the role of music in storytelling.

By Year 9 students are refining their composition through a wider study of world music. The consolidate their understanding of notation and recording their own music. The string instrument family is explored in Year 9 with students learning the different sounds and purposes of different instruments and having the opportunity to play a range of string instruments. The Reggae genre is their listening study, exploring the history and conventions of the music.

At KS4, students have the opportunity to continue their music study through AQA Level 1/2 technical award in Performing Arts.

Part B: Co-curricular music

In addition to the core provision, all students are offered music lessons for free. These are delivered by SFE peripatetic teachers and include a loan instrument for students to practice in school clubs and at home. We have over 50 students engaged in this programme and offer a range of instruments. These include: Voice, strings, brass, drums, dhol, guitar, woodwind, keyboards and DJ. These classes are in small groups or individually depending on the student's experience and ambitions. Students have the opportunity to study for grading exams through ABRSM, they are prepared by their teacher.

Our trust have a multi academy choir that regularly performs at a variety of events including Echo Eternal and tour schools performing for other students. Students have weekly voice lessons and rehearsals.

We have rehearsal spaces for students to practice both individually and as ensembles outside of lesson time.

Part C: Musical experiences

Our students perform for parents and students at a range of events throughout the year. They are prepared by their teacher to devise a set list and be performance ready.

We also ensure all students have access to musical experiences outside of the classroom. This includes visiting performers, performances at Birmingham Hippodrome, workshops run by artists from SFE and BCM. This programme changes each year dependant on availability but has included Tik Tok music performers, flamenco dancers and bands, steel drum workshops and musical theatre. We provide these experiences for free as part of our commitment to promote the arts.

In the future

Our aspirations this year is to hold two student showcases for parents and the community. We have developed our performance space and built capacity through the department after challenges to Music caused by COVID restrictions. Students have been steadily building in confidence and skills thanks to our broad and ambition curriculum.

We are also hoping to field a KS4 cohort now that students have confidence in the department and our curriculum is established.