

Music development plan summary: Huntingdon Academy – Why Music Matters

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Miss Taylor
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Riley and Mrs Vaughan
Name of local music hub	Nottingham Music Hub

This is a summary of how Huntingdon 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.

Curriculum music

At Huntingdon Academy, music serves as a joyful and creative outlet for children to express their emotions. It plays a crucial role in personal development, and we strive to offer all students the chance to create, play, perform, listen to, analyse, and enjoy music from a wide range of periods, genres, and styles. We are dedicated to helping children understand the significance of music within the wider community, providing opportunities for them to apply their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences in a variety of contexts. We base our music planning upon the scheme offered by the Kapow Music Scheme which helps children to develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and untuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music. With this they will develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of music that they listen to, and learn how music can be written down. We dedicate weekly music lessons to cover the curriculum and singing assemblies and after school activities to enrich the curriculum. Our music curriculum is recorded and reflected upon in floor books using QR codes of practical sessions and theory covered. Using the Model Music Curriculum as a guide, music is sourced from different genres to expand listening on a daily basis – as a school we will listen to the same music in each classroom upon arrival and discuss its background and links to previous known artists and develop new knowledge to build on. Additionally, our curriculum emphasizes oracy, and music supports the teaching of fundamental British values like mutual respect and tolerance, as students learn to appreciate diverse cultures and collaborate with their peers.

Co-curricular music

Our exceptional choir brings joy to the community and strengthens the singing curriculum in both lower and upper school assemblies. We have built a reputation in which we are consistently invited to join community events to share our talent. Our choir also perform during special assemblies and have secured us with funding to acquire a class set of keyboards. We always offer a music based after school club with choir being the most popular especially with the community eager to invite us to different events. Instrumental clubs vary throughout the year ranging from tuned and non-tuned instruments.

Musical experiences

Students have the chance to showcase their talents through special performances at end of term singing assemblies and shows, with parents invited to attend. KS1 students participate in a Christmas performance, while Year 6 students present an end-of-year summer show. We are always excited to attend the High School End of Year production (last year it was Shrek), to collaborate with the local music hub events and Nottingham Youth Orchestra. These are cherished opportunities that excite and encourage our children to embrace the music curriculum.

In the future

Our improvement plan for music education aims to develop a high-quality, well-sequenced curriculum with clear objectives and progression. It focuses on reviewing and refining the current curriculum to ensure it aligns with best practices and reflects the school's context. Teacher training will be a priority to enhance understanding and confidence in delivering the curriculum, with targeted professional development and external support where needed. Success will be measured through regular audits to assess the impact of training on teaching quality.

The plan also seeks to strengthen partnerships by exploring further external resources, such as further support from Nottingham's Music Hub and other local music groups, to enrich the school's music offerings. Additionally, it will review and expand music enrichment opportunities, ensuring they are accessible to all students. By incorporating pupil feedback and data analysis, we aim to increase engagement in music enrichment activities and ensure a diverse range of students benefit from these opportunities.