



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Whole school Curriculum INTENT

Our curriculum aims are underpinned by our values:

Our goal is for Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre to be a thriving and supportive community underpinned by mutual respect. We strive for excellence by providing a challenging, stimulating, creative and diverse learning environment that enables us all to become the best we can be.

MUSIC - INTENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

In Music we:

- Provide a broad and balanced education for all students that's coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge for skills and future learning and employment by designing a curriculum that explores a wide range of musical genres, traditions and historical periods. Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to build knowledge and skills progressively, from basic musical elements to more advanced composition, performance, and analysis. We also provide opportunities for ensemble work, technology-based music, and real-world applications in the music industry.
- Enable students to develop knowledge, understand concepts and acquire skills, and be able to choose and apply these in relevant situations by teaching students to read music, understand musical theory, compose original pieces, and perform with confidence. Students learn to analyse music critically and apply their understanding in both creative and practical contexts, including solo and group performance, use of digital audio workstations (DAWs), and informed listening.
- Support students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by exploring music from different cultures, religions, and historical contexts, helping students develop empathy, appreciation, and respect for diverse perspectives. We also promote teamwork, discipline, and expression through collaborative performance and composition tasks.
- Support students' physical development and responsibility for their own health, and enable them to be active by encouraging active participation in performance, instrumental lessons, ensemble rehearsals, and singing, all of which require posture, breath control, and fine motor skills. These contribute to a healthy lifestyle and self-discipline.

- Promote a positive attitude towards learning by creating a vibrant and inclusive environment where creativity and individual expression are celebrated. Regular performance opportunities, feedback, and celebration of student success foster confidence and a growth mindset.
- Ensure equal access to learning for all students, with high expectations for every pupil and appropriate levels of challenge and support by differentiating tasks, offering instrument tuition bursaries, and ensuring that all students, regardless of background, are encouraged to engage in musical activities. Schemes of learning are inclusive and support both SEND and high-ability students.
- Have a high academic/vocational/technical ambition for all students by offering a pathway for further study and employment in the creative arts, through GCSE Music. We maintain high expectations for performance, composition, and theoretical knowledge, preparing students for A-level and post-16 music courses or industry routes.
- Equip students with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life by exposing them to a wide variety of musical styles, composers, instruments, and technologies. Through performance and listening, students gain a deeper understanding of global cultures, historical movements, and the emotional power of music.

KEY STAGE 3 (KS3)

Students study a wide range of musical styles including classical, popular, world, and film music. Topics include the **elements of music, reggae (with a focus on syncopation), film and video game music, theme and variation, jazz and blues, and form and structure.** Students perform, compose, and evaluate music regularly, with access to keyboards, tuned percussion, and software like BandLab Education.

We place a strong emphasis on developing students' skills in three core areas of musical learning: **performance, composition, and aural skills.** Students are regularly given opportunities to perform both individually and as part of an ensemble, helping to build confidence, technical control, and expression. In composition, students are taught to create music using both traditional and digital tools, exploring different genres, structures, and techniques to craft original pieces. Aural and listening skills are embedded throughout the curriculum—students learn to identify musical elements, recognise instruments and genres, and respond critically to a wide range of music. These three pillars support a holistic and well-rounded music education, preparing students for further study and real-world musical experiences.

KEY STAGE 4 (KS4)

Students follow the **OCR GCSE Music (9–1)** course, which allows them to develop their skills in **performance, composition, listening, and appraising.** They complete both **solo and ensemble performances**, compose two original pieces in different styles or for different purposes, and study a wide range of music through **five areas of study:** *My Music, The Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film Music, and Conventions of Pop.* The course encourages students to become confident

performers and creative composers, while deepening their understanding of musical contexts, forms, and devices through aural analysis and critical listening. **KEY**

ASSESSMENT

In Music, we assess students by:

- Ongoing teacher observation during practical tasks
 - Written and listening tests
 - Self and peer assessment
 - Performances recorded and reviewed
 - Composition and project submissions
- These assessments inform progress tracking and are used to set personalised targets.
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HOME LEARNING

We support home learning by:

- Setting practice goals for instrumental/vocal work
 - Tasks to embed key learning
 - Sharing listening activities and analysis questions
 - Using digital platforms to submit work and receive feedback
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HOW PARENTS/CARERS CAN ASSIST AT HOME

You can assist at home by:

- Encouraging regular music practice and listening to a wide range of music together
- Supporting your child's participation in school concerts and music clubs
- Providing access to music technology or instruments where possible
- Discussing your child's progress and celebrating achievements with them