

# Music development plan summary: Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Dear Reader,

The following document presents the Music Development Plan for Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre for the 2025-2026 academic year. It provides an overview of how music education is delivered to all students, both through the curriculum and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.

This guide aims to assist students, parents, and carers in understanding the musical offerings at our school and the partnerships we have in place to support our students' musical journeys.

I hope you find this music development plan informative. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

It is a privilege to be part of the Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre, and to work alongside our talented music team and students as we foster a love for music that will last a lifetime, whatever form that may take in the future.

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2026
Name of the school music lead	E Harvey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	K Gordelier
Name of local music hub	Gloucestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Make Music Gloucestershire

## 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.

This section explains the content covered in music lessons, the time allocated for teaching music, and the qualifications or awards students can achieve.

At our school, we are committed to delivering high-quality music provision across both Key Stage 3 (KS3) and Key Stage 4 (KS4). This is evidenced by our awarded Music Mark for 4 consecutive years. Our KS3 curriculum has been carefully considered in order to align with the key objectives of the [National Plan for Music Education](#) and is also informed by the [Model Music Curriculum](#) (published in March 2021), which provides non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3.

We are very proud that our KS3 timetable includes two hours of music over a fortnight, allowing the music department to structure 6-8 week Schemes of Work (SOWs), tailored to each half term. In lessons, students participate in group music-making across various instruments and vocals, including whole-class experiences with keyboard, ukulele, African drumming, and Samba, which are embedded in the curriculum at appropriate stages to ensure a comprehensive musical education.

The KS3 curriculum is designed to build on prior learning from lesson to lesson and topic to topic. This approach not only broadens students' experience by introducing new instruments but also deepens their musical understanding through the development of specific skills. Key topics introduced at KS3, such as Film Music and African Music, are revisited at KS4 to ensure continuity towards exam success. KS3 homework is set occasionally, usually on a half-termly, project-based basis.

At KS4, students' study [OCR GCSE Music](#) (graded 1-9). We aim to allocate six hours of music lessons over a fortnight, which meets the recommended guided learning hours for GCSE courses. Students at KS4 engage in performance and composition, with opportunities to specialise in their chosen area, such as a specific instrument or vocals.

The KS4 curriculum is developed in line with course requirements but also builds on prior learning. Planning is adapted on a lesson-by-lesson basis to suit the needs of learners, and is assessed by classroom teachers based on learning outcomes, which are discussed with students in lessons. Homework is set weekly using Show My Homework and is usually coursework-based, often involving extended projects.

We maintain strong links with the Gloucestershire Music Hub, which provides government-funded support for music education in Gloucestershire. Their mission

aligns with ours: to offer diverse and inclusive music opportunities for young people across the county.

We ensure excellent access to music for our SEND and disabled students. This includes working with external organisations, such as [The Music Works](#). We also offer adjustment for students, such as ear defenders, and accessible classrooms (which allow for movement breaks) and open access to our Personalised Learning Centre for additional support. The school's SEND budget is also used to fund individual music provision when appropriate. For more information on our SEND provision, [click here](#).

Additionally, we run Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) support via Music Therapy, provided by The Music Works. Students eligible for Pupil Premium receive priority access to instruments and teacher support and are supported with funding applications for one-to-one lessons and KS4 resources, with further details available in Part B of this document.

All students have the opportunity to experience live music at least once a year, whether through school productions, school concerts and performances, trips to see Musicals, or events such as the Newent Orchestra live rehearsal lunches. We collaborate frequently with the Newent Orchestra, who, in partnership with us, deliver a beginners Classical Music Club within the community – offering free sessions to pupils.

## Part B: Co-curricular music

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

This section highlights the opportunities available to our students for singing and playing music beyond lesson time, including extra tuition, school choirs, ensembles, bands, and how they can progress in music outside the core curriculum.

### **Peripatetic Offer**

As mentioned in Section A, we greatly value our partnership with relevant local organisations, Newent Orchestra and our Music Hub. We also have a fantastic team of peripatetic staff who deliver one-to-one instrumental lessons in our dedicated practice rooms. The quality of their teaching staff is exemplary and our students thoroughly enjoy their instrumental lessons, with peripatetic staff offering support with coursework in performance and composition as students reach KS4.

We are proud to offer students access to individual music lessons across a wide range of instruments, as well as voice. Currently, we have specialist teachers for piano,

vocals, guitar (including bass guitar), drums, woodwind, and strings (violin and viola). Should students request it, we can arrange lessons for any instrument via Gloucestershire Music Hub and/or [Gloucestershire Academy of Music](#). Lessons cater to all abilities, from students who learn for enjoyment to those who pursue music with academic rigour. Some students learn through listening and tutorials, while others follow music notation, with the learning approach decided through discussions involving parents, teachers, and the student, ensuring a tailored experience. Lessons take place on a rotating timetable in order to minimise the impact on learning in one subject area.

When appropriate, students can be entered for graded music exams with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), Trinity or Rock School London (RSL). Lessons are offered one-to-one or in small groups (depending on availability). Fees vary based on group size and lesson duration, with detailed information available directly from the teachers themselves.

All teachers work on a self-employed basis, and the school act as an intermediary to support the initial relationship commencing. After the point of introduction, communication is direct with the teacher for the remainder of the professional relationship. Instrument hire is available at a reduced rate through the school or Gloucestershire Music, with more details provided [here](#). Weekend and holiday music opportunities are also offered by Gloucestershire Music (via their county music groups), Music Works and other organisations who get in touch, which we regularly promote via our school bulletin, Newent News, and Satchel App.

### **Financial Support**

Students with Pupil Premium status often qualify for subsidised music tuition. This includes those receiving Free School Meals, children of parents in receipt of disability allowance, or children of parents serving in the armed forces. Signing up for subsidised lessons is straightforward, with parents simply indicating their child's Pupil Premium status during the sign-up process. Our school is always ready to support parents or carers with this process if needed.

Alongside the Pupil Premium offer from the school, up to £200 per term (3 term year) is available as a bursary for pupils in receipt of pupil premium, or for those families who can demonstrate hardship, to receive individual or small group tuition. This is available via an application to Make Music Gloucestershire. All of the information can be found [here](#)

### **Clubs and Extra-Curricular**

Our music clubs run during lunch time, and they are always well attended by students across all year groups, who participate enthusiastically and show great progress in their musical abilities. Our school production will also hold rehearsals during lunch, tutor time, after school, on special 'drop-down' days, and even during school holidays. All school clubs are free of charge. Our range of school ensembles includes:

KS3 Choir

Musical Production Cast/Chorus

Flute and Recorder Club

Ukulele Club

Newent Classical Music Club (in the community)

We regularly open our practice spaces to give students more time to improve their practical skills. These sessions support individual or group rehearsal on any instrument or voice. The spaces also encourage the growth of student-formed groups and bands, who can perform at concerts.

Thanks to the wide range of activities offered within the Music Department, our school has been awarded the MusicMark Award for the last 6 years.

## 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.

At Newent Community School, we are committed to offering a wide range of musical experiences throughout the academic year, both within and outside of school. These experiences are designed to inspire students, nurture their musical talents, and provide opportunities for them to showcase their skills in a variety of settings. Whether participating in performances or attending as audience members, students from all year groups are encouraged to engage with our diverse programme of musical events.

### **In-School Performances and Events**

Throughout the school year, students have multiple opportunities to participate in and enjoy musical performances. We hold regular termly open rehearsals for the Newent Orchestra in the main hall, allowing students to observe live rehearsals during their lunchtime. This gives them the chance to appreciate orchestral music up close and to learn more about the ensemble. Similarly, we offer termly open rehearsals for our Classical Music Club, where students can see what the club offers with the option to join if they feel inspired.

We also host a number of musical performances, including our annual Christmas concert and performances at special events such as Achievement Evening. These are excellent platforms for students to perform in front of their peers, parents, carers, guardians, and staff. Additionally, our talented students regularly contribute to local community events, such as the Newent Food and Drink Festival, where they represent the school through live performances. Our school musical productions offer further chances for students from across year groups to showcase their acting, singing, and musical talents.

### **Trips and External Performances**

As part of our musical enrichment programme, students have the opportunity to attend trips to see professional musical performances. Each year, trips are organised to watch musicals in nearby cities, giving students an exciting chance to experience high-quality live performances that extend their understanding and enjoyment of the arts. KS4 students are also taken to see a live orchestra or ensemble in preparation for their GCSE listening exam.

### **Access and Participation**

We believe that every student should have the chance to engage with musical opportunities, regardless of financial circumstances. For this reason, many of our events, including the open rehearsals and some in-school performances, are free for all students to attend. Where there are costs associated with events or trips, we strive to keep these as low as possible, and in many cases, events are subsidised or free for students eligible for Pupil Premium. This includes free or reduced-price tickets for certain performances or trips. We are also happy to discuss financial assistance for parents or carers in particular circumstances to ensure that no student misses out on valuable musical experiences.

### **Partnerships and Support**

We are proud to work closely with our local music hub as well as other music education organisations and professionals, to enhance the musical experiences we offer. Their support allows us to bring in specialist musicians and provide unique opportunities for our students, such as workshops and performances led by visiting professionals.

These partnerships ensure that our students are exposed to a wide variety of musical genres and styles, helping to broaden their musical horizons.

As the academic year progresses, additional opportunities are announced at both the county and national levels. As new opportunities arise, they are communicated, organised, and hosted by the school.

Through these collaborations, we are able to provide a rich and varied programme of musical events and experiences that not only complement the music curriculum but also foster a lifelong love of music in our students.

For more information on how to get involved in these activities or details regarding tickets, subsidies, and upcoming events, please keep an eye on Satchel.

## **In the future**

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

We are committed to continuously developing and enhancing our music programme each academic year. Our priority is to maintain the high-quality provision of music education, including ensuring students continue to have sufficient access to timetabled

music lessons. Looking ahead, we may introduce new instruments for students to learn and will continue with our regular termly performances.

Future performance opportunities will be expanded as we deepen our collaboration with Newent Orchestra and participate in more county-level events, benefiting from the workshops and activities they provide.

We regularly review and adapt the curriculum to ensure teaching methods and materials remain up to date. Our extra-curricular offerings will continue to include annual or bi-annual school productions, and we will attend popular events like "Newent Food and Drink Festival" during the Summer Term.

To sustain our MusicMark status, we will continue fostering strong musical connections with our local community and county, building on existing partnerships where possible. We will also maintain the planning of in-school workshops for both KS3 and KS4 students throughout the academic year.

## Further information (optional)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

### **Model Music Curriculum – Listening Links**

Year 7 Model Music Curriculum

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLitQ2pP9mJejaotEZ9GeKs3dCGidbmVJD>

Year 8 Model Music Curriculum

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLitQ2pP9mJegNr6zRJeRTngUxMmA6KDM6>

Year 9 Model Music Curriculum

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLitQ2pP9mJeihS6EaRk0A0CWOAe42tes>