

# Music Development Plan Summary: Ricards Lodge High School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	24/06/2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	30/06/2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss Natalie Aghajanian
Name of local music hub	Merton Music Foundation

## Part A: Curriculum music

### Music Curriculum:

Our school music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021).

Lessons per fortnight: KS3 students have two hours of music lessons; KS4 students have five hours of music lessons and KS5 have nine hours of music lessons. This is in accordance with the National Curriculum.

Please see the school website for further details on the published music curriculum for all year groups: <https://www.ricardslodge.merton.sch.uk/page/?title=Music&pid=106>

GCSE Music students complete the *OCR GCSE Music J536* Curriculum.

RR6 (Sixth Form) students complete the *Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance*.

### Curriculum Performance Opportunities:

There are performance opportunities in every music lesson taught at Ricards Lodge High School. Our music curriculum is focused upon enabling students to build their confidence not only as individuals, but as musicians with our weekly practical lessons. Students are encouraged to rehearse at break time and lunch time as well as after school and have access to our range of instruments and practice rooms with a teacher available.

KS4 and KS5 students often take part in competitions outside of school and utilise their rehearsals during lessons to develop their skills, as well as performing regularly at school events.

The KS3 curriculum allows students to explore a wide range of instruments during practical lesson time, including: Gamelan instruments, keyboard, piano, ukulele, guitar, singing, percussion as well as donated orchestral instruments we have acquired.

Our music curriculum enables students to perform as whole-class ensembles, small group ensembles and solo instrumentalists. These performance opportunities are teacher-led and student-led, encouraging self-reflection and peer-assessment using success criteria.

#### **Local Music Hub:**

Ricards Lodge High School Music Department has strong links with our local music hub, Merton Music Foundation (MMF). We often arrange trips and opportunities outside the classroom for our music students as well as providing peripatetic teachers.

#### **Increasing Access:**

Our curriculum is tailored to suit the needs of all students, regardless of their musical experience. Music lessons are adaptive and accessible for all students in line with school policy and government guidance. Music lessons support students with SEN and are accessible to meet all individual needs. Staff attend regular CPD.

For more information please see the guidance on our school website:

<https://www.ricardslodge.merton.sch.uk/send>

## **Part B: Co-curricular music**

Ricards Lodge High School has an excellent wider provision for students to make progress beyond our core music curriculum.

#### **Co-curricular Provision:**

Ricards Lodge High School Music Department has a thriving extra-curricular music provision, offering students the ability to learn new instruments, join many music clubs, and perform at concerts in and outside of school.

Students from all year groups are encouraged to join any of our music clubs, regardless of their musical ability. Every music ensemble performs in our termly concerts as well as other events in and out of school.

Weekly extra-curricular activities:

- Senior Choir (Y8-13)
- Junior Choir (Y7)
- Orchestra (Y7-13)
- Steel Pan Band (Y7-8)
- Whole School Band (Y7-13)
- Keyboard Club (Y7-13)
- Guitar Club (Y7-13)

- Enrichment Band (RR6 only)
- Music Theory Club (Y7-13)

### **Peripatetic Provision:**

The music department has a comprehensive peripatetic team who provide formal instrumental lessons on a regular basis during the school day. Students can complete a variety of examinations on their voice/instrument/s through the exam boards: LAMDA, Trinity, ABRSM, Rockschoo and the Music Teacher's Exam Board. We currently have five peripatetic music teachers specialising in Woodwind, Violin, Piano, Drums, Bass, Guitar and Singing.

Ricards Lodge is also offering free music tuition to selected eligible Pupil Premium students led by Mr Finnis and Miss Aghajanian for singing, piano, guitar, drums, bass and ukulele. Students attending these lessons work toward graded Rockschoo qualifications and certificates.

## **Part C: Musical experiences**

The Music department presents three concerts a year: Winter Sounds, Spring Sounds and Summer Sounds. All school music ensembles listed above perform at each event, as well as student-led bands and soloists in KS3-KS5. Our Spring Sounds concert is a specialist acoustic concert for instrumental students who take peripatetic lessons, to give them the opportunity to perform in front of an audience, while the Summer and Winter concerts are amplified for bands and larger ensembles. This gives all students the opportunity to perform at our whole school concerts as they are tailored to suit different musical styles.

Music students are frequently performing at school events and collaborating with other departments in school, including Open Evenings, Performing Arts Careers Evening, Aspiration Evenings, Sports Awards Evenings, Lunchtime Concerts and Assemblies.

All music department ensembles have frequent opportunities to perform outside of school, including: Wimbledon Winterfest, BAME Voice Merton, Young Voices Concert at The O2 Arena London, Summer of Songs Festival, Battle of the Bands, Polka Theatre Wimbledon as well as collaborating regularly with MMF on school trips, concerts and workshops.

Each year we have a whole school musical which is directed by the Performing Arts departments and is performed to the public over three evenings as well as local primary schools. The auditions are open to all students from years 7 to 13.

GCSE and BTEC classes have frequent trip opportunities throughout the year, such as The Musical Museum, theatre tours, concerts, university visits (including the Royal Academy of Music and LMA London) and workshops from JALC. We are in close contact with our local music hub, Merton Music Foundation, who frequently provide tip opportunities and links with surrounding Merton schools.

## In the future

Our curriculum is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the ever-changing musical styles, skills and concepts in today's society through following the 7 features of high-quality music provision as stated on the Gov.uk website.

Our department aims to widen the resources available to our students over the next year, including raising money for new instruments, building a recording studio and widening the RR6 courses offered at Year 12 and 13 including the addition of a Music Technology course and further enrichment classes and opportunities for sixth form students.

Watching music performances are just as important in the development of any musician as is performing. We aim to provide the opportunity for GCSE and BTEC music students to enjoy professional live music at least twice a year.

**Continue to develop the co-curricular provision:** In the academic year 2023/24 we have introduced three new extra-curricular clubs: Senior Choir, Keyboard Club and Steel Pan Club. We aim to create a new extra-curricular within the next academic year to enable students to learn how to run the technical side of school concerts, musicals and any shows the school presents. We have also introduced an acoustic concert during Spring Term to showcase the work of our students taking peripatetic music tuition and working toward graded examinations. Free peripatetic tuition for Pupil Premium and Free School Meal eligible students (Year 7-13) have been provided as of Autumn term 2023 to create a more inclusive access to music at Ricards Lodge. We aim to increase the number of students on roll for these free piano, singing, guitar, bass, drums and ukulele lessons in 2024/25 academic year.

## Further information

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 for support beyond the school.

For information on our local [music hub](#), please go to <https://mmf.org.uk/>. This should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

The Power of Music to Change Lives:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62bc1242d3bf7f292040d364/The\\_Power\\_of\\_Music\\_to\\_Change\\_Lives.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62bc1242d3bf7f292040d364/The_Power_of_Music_to_Change_Lives.pdf)