

The Music curriculum

Music curriculum vision

The music curriculum and enrichment programme at Barr's Hill school is based upon the understanding of the power of music to transform lives. Music lessons at Barr's Hill school develop three key skills of listening, performance and composition. Students develop core singing and keyboard skills through a range of genres in Key Stage 3. Through the practical elements of performance and composition, students gain a thorough understanding of music theory. Students can develop their skills further at GCSE where they study performance, composition and listening at a higher level.

Students are encouraged to attend music enrichment experiences and opportunities at the school. There is no charge for any peripatetic music lesson at the school. Students at Barr's Hill school have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument with specialist instruction from Coventry Music Service. These lessons enable students to explore performance skills and develop these into a high standard where they can take Trinity and ABRSM graded performance exams. Students can develop the knowledge of ensemble performance from their curriculum by engaging with the large and small scale instrumental ensembles at the school. Students have the opportunity to develop key performance skills of singing and keyboard through the respective enrichment opportunities of choir and keyboard club and peripatetic piano lessons. Students who have peripatetic lessons perform solo and ensemble in the school during Showcase events. These opportunities help with character development in skills of resilience. The department works closely with Coventry Music Service to enable students to access high quality performance opportunities at Draper's Hall and Birmingham Symphony Hall. These opportunities are aspirational and inspire students to achieve and realise their full potential.

Confident performance is not only integral to the development of every musician but helps develop a lifelong ability to perform on stage with success and ease. Students at Barr's Hill school perform at the end of every Key Stage 3 topic. Students at Key Stage 4 develop these performances into recordings for their performance component of GCSE. The students compose in a range of styles developing their core skill of keyboard skills through classical, blues, film and pop music. Students additionally learn to compose in a similar range of styles including World Music, Classical, Jazz and Blues, Film and Pop. In Key Stage 3, students develop an understanding of music theory which facilitates performance and composition in both treble and bass clef. Students then explore this further through the composition component at GCSE level. Students develop their listening skills through every topic at Key Stage 3 and 4 working cumulating in the listening exam at GCSE level.

Key stage 3 – Units of study

Term	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Rotation 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Singing, Drumming and the musical elements</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pupils will discover the musical elements and learn how to sing with good technique. Pupils will create a polyrhythmic, cyclic ensemble composition.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jazz and Blues</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pupils learn how to play a chord sequence, walking bass and melody in Blues style. Pupils learn the historical context of Jazz and how it has influenced popular music. Pupils learn how to perform in a Jazz, Blues and Ragtime style.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Film and Videogame music</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pupils learn about film and videogame music. Pupils perform and compose in a film and videogame music.</i></p>
Rotation 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Keyboard Skills</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pupils learn to play the keyboard with good technique. Pupils learn pieces and scales in major, minor, pentatonic, chromatic keys.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Form and Structure, Theme and Variations</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pupils learn about binary, ternary, rondo and theme and variations form. Pupils perform and compose pieces in different forms and realise a longer composition using theme and variations structure.</i></p>	

Key stage 4 – Units of study WJEC Eduqas GCSE music 9-1 (C660QS)

Term	Year 10	Year 11
1	Component 3: AOS1 Forms and Devices Pupils learn about binary, ternary and rondo form recapping music theory. Pupils start set work 1: Bach Badinerie.	Component 2: Set Brief Composition Pupils compose to a brief set by the exam board using music software.
2	Component 3: AOS 3 Film music Pupils learn about the techniques used in film music.	Component 1: Final Recording for Solo and Ensemble Performance Pupils record their final solo and ensemble pieces.
3	Component 3: AOS 4 Popular Music Pupils learn about popular music in strophic form, harmony and cadences common to the genre. Pupils start set work 2: Toto Africa.	Component 3: Revision AOS1 and AOS 3 Pupils deepen their knowledge of AOS1, AOS 3 and set work Bach Badinerie.
4	Component 3: AOS 2 Music for Ensemble Pupils learn about different textures in music and Jazz and Blues harmony.	Component 3: Revision AOS4 and AOS 2 Pupils deepen their knowledge of AOS4, AOS2 and set work Toto Africa.
5	Component 2: Free Composition Pupils start their free composition writing music using software.	Exam Revision for Component 3
6	Component 1 and 2: Free Composition continued and Solo Performance Pupils finish their free composition and record their solo performance.	

Supporting your child with their learning

The following links will support additional learning to your child.

Year 7 Unit	Additional Learning
Singing, Drumming and the Musical Elements	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/courses/zpn8wnb
Keyboard Skills	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx38q6f

Year 8 Unit	Additional Learning
Jazz and Blues	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zjsc87h/articles/z72q7yc https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/courses/ztrd8hv
Form and Structure, Theme and Variations	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3dqhyc/articles/z7n2qp3 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zkpdy9q/revision/1

Year 9 Unit	Additional Learning
Film Music	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3dqhyc/articles/z7bphbk https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhdpscw/articles/zmnk47h

Year 10 and 11 Units	Additional Learning
Theory	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zkpdy9q/revision/1

	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zfpmcqt/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z4x4pg8/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvww2sg/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zbvpd6f/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z4ry7nb/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zk43mfr/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zidchbk/revision/1
Forms and Devices	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/znb3rwx/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z4qj2nb/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zjt6pbk/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmsny4j/revision/1
Film Music	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zhb3rwx/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zbwdqhv/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z427xfr/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmyf3k7/revision/1
Popular Music	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z63vgdm/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zncr97h/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zf948mn/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvd8jty/revision/1
Music for Ensemble	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zrjw7p3/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zd6xh39/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zjhtng8/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z6vyb82/revision/1
Free and Set Brief Composition	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zfs692p/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvvpd6f/revision/1
Solo and Ensemble Performance	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zrry7nb/revision/1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zb3nwtv/revision/1