Music development plan summary: Rivers Academy West London Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Laura Harvey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Eon Myton
Name of local music hub	Hounslow Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

This is a summary of how our school 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. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

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.

All pupils in Key Stage 3 study Music as part of their learning. Our curriculum has been developed in line with the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) and aims to give our pupils a range of high quality musical experiences across different instruments and styles. The curriculum is structured so that pupils develop and broaden their musical skills and knowledge across their three years of study through a variety of engaging topics and musical experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum develops pupil's performance, composing, production and listening and analysis skills. Lessons are practical and engaging, with lots of opportunities for our learners to work both individually and collaboratively via small group and whole class activities on instruments such as the keyboard, ukulele, percussion and music technology via the DAW Bandlab. In year 7, pupils are introduced to the basic skills on these instruments and learning platforms via performance and composition, alongside which they develop their knowledge of the musical elements and features of particular styles of music. In year 8 and 9 these skills

are refined and improved, as pupils widen their knowledge of musical styles and music theory. Developing the confidence of our students is another vital part of our curriculum, and students are regularly challenged to present their ideas to each other while being encouraged to evaluate the success of these performances. By the end of key stage 3 we hope our pupils are the best musicians they can be, having participated in a rich variety of musical experiences within the classroom.

Assessment is planned throughout Key Stage 3 and uses a variety of different methods (including video, audio and written tasks) depending on the task being completed to track pupil progress. Students are also assessed in a variety of scenarios, both as part of larger scale groups, smaller groups and as individuals. There are regular opportunities for students to self and peer assess their work to refine and improve their work. Feedback from both students and staff is in various formats, written and verbal.

At Key Stage 4 pupils study for the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice. This qualification is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course which offers them an insight into what it is like to work in the Music sector – a vibrant, exciting and competitive industry that offers many different and exciting new work opportunities, whether in composing, performing, or producing music. This course allows our pupils to explore the sector, and to learn and try out new skills, techniques and styles, allowing them to make an informed decision about their future learning and career. The course gives our pupils an opportunity to explore music in a practical setting and to develop understanding of the techniques used to create and realise music. They explore a variety of musical styles and the musical theory and techniques that underpin them and develop technical and practical skills through workshops and classes. In addition, pupils develop transferable and employability skills such as responding to a brief, self-development, planning, time management and communication. All components, including the externally assessed synoptic component, are assessed through engaging, open, and flexible set tasks, designed to give pupils as much freedom as possible in how they respond, allowing them to work to their own strengths and interests, and to focus on the area of the music sector that most excites and appeals to them. Through this exciting and engaging course, pupils are encouraged to further develop their performance skills on an instrument of their choosing, alongside their composition, production and analysing skills. It is a great stepping stone to further vocational or academic music study at KS5 and beyond.

Further information on our Key Stage 3 and 4 curriculum can be found via this link.

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.

At Rivers Academy our pupils have access to small group tuition on a range of instruments via Hounslow Music Service, who provide instrumental teachers. HMS also offers ensembles, instrumental tuition and a Saturday Music School at various locations in the Borough of Hounslow. Students can loan instruments from the Service when they learn an instrument.

Tuition is paid for by parents/carers. However there is funding available for families through the Pupil Premium budget if pupils qualify. Pupils who take the BTEC Music Practice qualification at Key Stage 4 also receive subsidised instrumental tuition to support the performance requirements of the course.

Outside of lessons students have access to a range of clubs, including keyboard club, choir and KS3 and 4 music club, as well as rehearsal spaces for individuals and small groups. Clubs are open to all pupils and are free of charge.

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.

Pupils regularly perform in the local community throughout the year at events organised by both the Academy and through Feltham Arts Association. These include our annual Community Christmas Tea, Festive Singing in Feltham Centre, performing at local nursing homes and performances with other schools and organisations throughout the year.

Theatre trips are offered to Key Stage 3 pupils throughout the year. In the last year, these have included visits to Hamilton for Key Stage 4, and Abba Voyage, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and The Hunger Games for Key Stage 3.

Key Stage 4 Music pupils have the opportunity to attend a range of trips to support their learning and wider musical experiences, including theatre trips to see musicals and plays, concerts and other music-based experiences.

In the future

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

Continue our passion for teaching and sharing the power of music with our students and our community by offering more performance opportunities (singing/instrumental) in both formal and informal settings.

To support the Academy Improvement Plans for 2026-26 to ensure the following:

- Adaptive teaching strategies are used effectively in all Music lessons at Key Stage 3 and 4 in order to further support those students who are SEN and disadvantaged.
- Embed foundational skills (literacy, oracy, and numeracy) within Music lessons, where appropriate, equipping pupils with the skills needed for future education, employment and life.
- To continue to improve outcomes for disadvantaged and SEN pupils to reduce achievement gaps for pupils at KS4.
- Support the personal development curriculum by offering enrichment activities and trips for pupils.

Develop further links with musical agencies with a view of an increased uptake of peripatetic lessons and musical experiences for all pupils.

Continue to increase the uptake of pupils choosing Music as part of their KS4 options through annual reviews of the curriculum, to ensure high levels of engagement and appreciation of a wide range of music.

Create more opportunities for students to perform to parents or peers. Encourage non-departmental staff to take part in rehearsals and concerts alongside pupils.

Introduce KS5 Music to provide an opportunity for students to study the subject to a higher level.