

Music development plan summary: Parkside Middle School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Rebecca Williams
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Joe Durnall (AHT / Faculty Lead) / Mrs Jodie Terrey (Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum)
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Spire Trust Learning Partnership

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.

Parkside Middle School is proud to be a Music Mark School in recognition of the commitment to providing a high-quality music education. The Senior Leadership Team are supportive of and value music education at Parkside. The Music Head of Department is a music specialist and has been in post for several years, with access to a wide range of CPD opportunities and collaboration with other subject specialists as part of the Spire Trust Learning Partnership. Music teachers across Key Stage 2 are supported by the Head of Department, with a growing team of specialists who deliver the Key Stage 2 curriculum.

At both Key Stage Two and Key Stage Three, pupils receive a weekly 1-hour music lesson. At Key Stage Three, this is taught by the Head of Department. Year 5 are currently receiving FAME music lessons for one term, delivered by specialist staff from

Severn Arts. Our music curriculum has been planned in line with the model music curriculum.

At Parkside, Music is inclusive for all, the spiral curriculum allows for small, incremental steps in learning. Music tech is embedded into the curriculum through use of GarageBand. We wish to ignite a lasting passion for music. We want students to love creating music and have no limits to their ambitions. Our vision is to give students access to an engaging and progressive curriculum that reflects the world they live in now but also allows them to access music styles throughout history.

The Music curriculum intends to inspire self-expression and enable students to explore and develop their creative ideas. Students are given opportunities to communicate, collaborate and build a sense of community. They will listen and respond to a variety of musical styles and learn about the cultural, social and historical contexts through diverse musical experiences to enable them to become confident and reflective learners.

The curriculum offers opportunities in:

- Performance as a soloist and ensemble performer
- Composition through solo and ensemble music making
- Listening and evaluating

At Parkside there is much emphasis on active and practical music making and opportunities are created to celebrate, share and experience music of all kinds. Pupils are actively engaged as performers, music-creators and audience.

Music is embedded into the school life at Parkside through regular singing assemblies, celebration assemblies and musical events. Extra-curricular opportunities, including choir and keyboard club, enriches the core curriculum for music and allows the opportunity to share interests and experience performing with others. High-quality instrumental tuition is offered through our partnership with Severn Arts.

We are proud to have been awarded 'Arts Mark Gold' and recognised as a 'Music Mark' School. Non-specialist teachers, teaching in non-music classrooms is a barrier to meeting the expectations as set out in the model music curriculum

Singing assemblies are held weekly. All students will perform at key assemblies throughout the year, Christmas, Easter, Pride of Parkside assemblies etc.

An overview of the Music curriculum at Parkside Middle School

Year 5:

Machine Music

Pupils will look at how to perform vocal and body percussion sounds. They will perform and interpret from graphic scores and improvise their own cyclic rhythm patterns. They will then create their own sound effects and produce a soundscape to represent a new video game.

Rhythm Patterns - Peer Gynt / Descriptive Music

This topic will focus on the Music of 'Peer Gynt', composed by Edvard Grieg. Pupils will be asked to create images that they think matches the music and explain what they think is happening in the piece using musical vocabulary. They will perform using tuned and untuned percussion and create their own short tune to represent the story.

Ukulele

Pupils will develop their ensemble skills when performing as a class. They will develop their playing technique and focus on performing with a strong sense of pulse. Pupils will learn a range of pieces and aim to perform using a 4-chord progression. They will learn how to read Ukulele TAB and Chord Boxes.

Year 6

Music in Year 6 aims to reinforce and deepen the skills and knowledge learnt in Year 5.

There are 3 projects:

WW2 Soundscapes

Pupils will explore the context of WW2 Music through listening, singing and dancing. They will hear a variety of styles and perform songs from WW2 reflecting on the character and use of the pieces. They will work in a group to create a version of a WW2 Soundscape, sequencing some commonly heard sounds from WW2.

WW2 Music

Violins

Instruments of the Orchestra

In this Unit students will explore the instruments of the Orchestra and work to be able to recognise them and the families to which they belong with increasing accuracy. They will listen to wide range of music from Great Composers – Prokofiev, Saint-Saens and John Williams and participate in group and individual performances. They will deepen their understanding as to how the musical elements can be used to reflect a character and will progress to compose their own short motif.

Samba

Pupils will learn about the importance and cultural relevance of Samba Music. They will draw upon their knowledge of the musical elements to identify features of the music and apply their understanding and performance skills of basic rhythm and pulse as they perform together. They will develop their understanding of how different rhythms can fit together and then structure and perform their own version of 'Rio de Janeiro' using a range of tuned and untuned percussion.

Year 7

Practical music making is at the heart of the Year 7 curriculum: lessons are designed to engage and enrich the musical mind of each pupil and promote creative thinking.

There are opportunities to work both independently and collaboratively, encouraging pupils to build self-confidence, self-discipline and team working skills. Pupils are able to use a variety of instruments through the topics: Find Your Voice, Rhythm and Fanfares, and Keyboard Performance.

Assessment will have a largely practical focus with much verbal feedback provided during lessons. There is also the opportunity for pupils to reflect and engage in dialogue when reviewing their own performances and compositions.

Year 8

The Year 8 curriculum will continue to build on the skills learnt in Year 7 to enable pupils to create and perform their own music. There are opportunities for ensemble work and independent tasks, to encourage pupils to take initiative, develop responsibility and relate with each other.

Pupils will study The Blues and Jazz Improvisation, further developing their keyboard skills and contextual understanding. They will then explore music technology when studying Film Music and create their own music to a film clip using GarageBand. Finally, pupils will collaborate to form their own Pop/Rock Band, performing popular tracks using an instrument of their choice.

As in Year 7, assessment will be mostly practical and pupils will have the opportunity to review their finished work.

Summary of opportunities for pupils to play instruments across the school.

Across both key stages, students have access to a range of instruments and singing is a key thread throughout.

Year 5 have access to FAME lessons on either violin, cornet or flute for one term (funded by the David Morgan Trust). This can then lead to smaller group tuition with the Play-On initiative (heavily funded by DMT). High quality lessons are delivered by specialist instrumental teachers from Severn Arts and supported by the Music Head Of Department. Year 5 will also use a range of tuned/untuned percussion and have the opportunity to explore music technology with GarageBand.

In Year 6 instrumental skills are further developed with whole class Ukulele lessons and are able to use a range of percussion instruments when performing and composing.

Key Stage Three topics include singing, rhythm and pulse are explored through drumming and keyboard units. Ensemble skills are developed and music technology skills are further embedded through the use of GarageBand when composing film music soundtracks.

In partnership with Severn Arts and enabled through funding from the David Morgan Trust a recent successful project included 'Turntablism'. This saw the Music Head Of Department and Key Stage Two music staff receive training to deliver an exciting unit of work across the school.

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.

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The Music Head of Department offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities that run weekly:

- KS2 and KS3 Choirs
- Ukulele/drumming/keyboard club on rotation
- Band rehearsals (pop bands and including orchestral instruments arrangements for special events)

Instrumental lessons and PLAY-ON are offered in partnership with our local hub; Severn Arts, on all instruments/voice and instrumentalists are encouraged to use the rehearsal space to practise independently. This supports and strengthens the work undertaken within the curriculum. Funded instrumental lessons are available at Parkside so that our disadvantaged pupils are also able to access this provision.

Opportunities are sought to enable regular performance for those involved in extra-curricular clubs and those receiving instrumental lessons. There are termly concerts where parents/carers are invited to attend, regular performances in assemblies and school events such as Pride of Parkside assemblies, Music Morning with our feeder

first schools, leavers presentations and Parkside's Got Talent. An annual Year 5 show has also been organised by the Head of Expressive Arts.

Carol singing at the local residential home has taken place for several years and Parkside are regular participants in Young Voices. There are links established with the local high school (previously having taken part in 'Music Days' and concerts hosted by the high school and also visits have been arranged for the high school to perform for our musicians to inspire and enthuse) and also Bromsgrove School (a number of pupils attending their Middle Schools Orchestra and students have also taken part in an Orchestral Day).

Collaboration with Severn Arts have included live demonstrations to promote uptake of musical instruments. Community projects are promoted within school, e.g free access to rehearse and receive informal music tuition through the 'The Hub' and other performance opportunities in the local area e.g 'Player's platform'.

Opportunities have also been sought to promote music across the school, for example through 'World Music Day' presentations, 'Whose favourite song?' – seeking to promote an understanding of a range of musical genres/artists and linking whole school singing performances to key historical events such as Black History Month. Year group singing competitions have been organised to promote a music culture throughout the school.

The music department offers a large classroom suitable for bigger music groups; choirs/band etc and can be utilised at lunchtime and after school. There are two separate practice rooms which is staffed by the Head of Department during most break and lunchtimes. These are used for instrumental lessons and also for individual practice sessions. All instrumentalists are able to access this space with permission from the Head of Department and independent practise and self-led groups are encouraged.

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.

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Live performances within school vary to include; music performed by Head of Department / musicians during assembly time. In recent times, the local high school band have been invited in to perform for several students to inspire our musicians and to aid the transition process for Year 8. Also, Severn Arts teachers have provided live demonstrations to various year groups to encourage uptake of music lessons. A successful reward trip for our Key Stage Two Choir has recently been trialled to a theatre in Birmingham to promote and encourage regular attendance and involvement in musical activities, thus also enhancing cultural capital.

There is also an opportunity to perform and for students to experience live music in a range of venues, e.g Christmas Service at the local Methodist Centre, Young Voices at the World Resorts Arena, theatre trips, carol singing in the community, music/orchestra days at local schools. Opportunities have also been sought to promote music across the school, for example through 'World Music Day' presentations, 'Whose favourite song?' – seeking to promote an understanding of a range of musical genres/artists and linking whole school singing performances to key historical events such as Black History Month. Year group singing competitions have been organised to promote a music culture throughout the school.

In the future

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

- Use a greater range of suggested repertoire from MMC (or similar) along with musicianship suggestions appropriate for age within SOW.
- Look into costings/hiring music tech equipment to enhance the curriculum provision.
- Offer CPD to form tutors to model/coach singing practise.
- Apply for funding to continue FAME sessions in future years and also secure funding to enable PLAY-ON to run successfully with all Year 5 groups.
- Continue to ensure funding available to support DL pupils in accessing instrumental lessons.

- Continue to seek funding from the David Morgan Trust to enable PLAY-ON to run successfully with a number of students.
- Further develop a reward programme of trips etc. to encourage regular participation in clubs and musical performances.
- Music budget to allow regular purchases of new sheet music and secure a second drum kit.