

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 – 2026
Date this summary was published	February 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	August 2026
Name of the school music lead	Keir Crawley / Samantha Newell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Keir Crawley
Name of local music hub	Brent Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	English National Opera The Institute of Education The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance The Brit School

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

Music sits within the faculty of performing arts which works to inspire and promote both acceptance and awareness in all students. We aim to foster a lifelong passion for music whilst ensuring all students have access to experiences both in school and our wider community that develop personal growth, confidence, and analytical thinking. Participation is at the heart of all we do; fostering creativity, enhancing communication skills and teamwork which enables students to express themselves confidently in music alongside a range of artistic forms including drama and dance. By exploring our diverse cultures, histories, and genre we encourage students to enrich their cultural capital within both music and the performing arts as a whole.

### Intent

- Develop technical, creative, and performance skills.
- Engage with a broad and balanced curriculum of artistic traditions from different genres and historical contexts.
- Build an understanding of the role of the music in society, both as a form of self-expression and as a vehicle for social change.

- Nurture resilience, self-discipline, and collaboration through rehearsal, performance and reflection.

### **Implementation**

- Students are introduced to the principles of music, as outlined in the National Curriculum, of performance, composition and listening and appraising. They are encouraged to learn an instrument, sing, and compose, building their musical skills and understanding across a range of genres.
- Extracurricular activities in music (alongside drama and dance) including lunch time and after-school clubs, productions, and concerts, provide many further opportunities for students to develop and showcase their talents.

### **Impact**

- Make significant progress (in line with, or above national averages) in practical, theoretical and the creative understanding of music
- Demonstrate improved confidence, self-expression and performance which will benefit students across all subjects within school and in their future careers.
- Students develop a passion for music and the expertise to drive them towards further study of related degree courses in Higher Education, alongside the opportunity to master the skills necessary to pursue career paths in the associated creative industries.

### **Curriculum Music in the Lower School**

**(1 hour per week for EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2)**

**Collins Hub Music Express** – A progressive, whole-school primary music programme providing a structured and engaging curriculum from Reception to Year 6.

- **Reception** – Explore music through singing, movement and listening developing awareness of rhythm, pitch and sound.
- **Year 1** – Sing simple songs, keep a steady pulse and explore rhythm and sound.
- **Year 2** – Sing and play with control, explore tempo and dynamics and create simple patterns.
- **Year 3** – Perform as part of an ensemble using *Toots and Doods*, develop basic notation skills and begin structured composing.
- **Year 4** – Sing and play in parts, refine performance skills and compose using a wider range of musical elements.
- **Year 5** – Perform confidently, use notation fluently and compose with structure and purpose.
- **Year 6** – Perform, compose and appraise music independently with understanding of style, form and expression.
- **Reception to Year 6** - Peripatetic band lessons with iRock – an optional provision that enriches the statutory music curriculum, including drums, keyboards, vocals and strings
- **Year 3** – *Toots and Doods* whole-class instrumental teaching introducing notation, pitch and ensemble skills
- **Years 2–4** – Choir provision using Charanga to develop singing, performance and ensemble skills
- **Year 5 and 7 Performing Arts Afternoon** - Darkwood Manor

- **Year 3 or 4** – We Wish You a Jazzy Christmas (alternate years where possible in collaboration with the upper school)

### Curriculum Music in the Upper School

**(1 hour per week for Key Stage 3, 5 hours across a fortnight for Key Stage 4)**

- **Year 7** – Year 5 and 7 Performing Arts Afternoon, Sounds and Symbols, Whole Class Ensemble: Christmas Music, Keyboard Skills, The Kitchen Samba and Instruments of the Orchestra
- **Year 8** – Scales and Modes, Whole Class Ensemble: Christmas Music, Chords and Bass Lines, Whole Class Ensemble: Ukuleles, Composing Crazy
- **Year 9** – Hooks and Riffs, Introduction to GCSE Music, Musicals, Music Production
- **Year 10 and 11:** Pearson EDEXCEL GCSE Music

## Part B: Co-curricular music.

### The Preston Manor Music Academy – Saturdays during term time

The Preston Manor Music Academy is a small independent quintuple award winning Saturday community music school for 6 to 18 year olds that offers a choice of instrumental lessons but also the chance to play in an orchestra or ensemble sing in a choir and study music theory. We currently offer *small group* lessons in piano, keyboard, flute, violin, classical, electric and bass guitar, ukulele and drum kit. Pupils attending Preston Manor's Upper or Lower School receive first priority. There are two membership categories:

Membership Category	Description and Age Range
Music Academy	Open to high school aged students from Year 7 to 13 from both Preston Manor School and the surrounding community
Junior Music Academy	Open to primary school aged students from Year 2 to 6 from both Preston Manor's Lower School and the surrounding community.

Studying music theory not only enables a student to achieve a greater understanding of the music they are learning in their instrumental lessons but also allows them to pursue the Associated Board/London College/Rock School exam system up to and beyond grade five. The theory of music is not offered as part of the National Curriculum but extra-curricular study can help any child in their appreciation and understanding of classroom based music lessons. In addition, the QCA recognises that the study of both practical and theoretical music to a grade five standard is equivalent in points to a GCSE. Achieving above grade six can also earn pupils UCAS points that count towards meeting offers made by universities.

At first, instrumental lessons are taken *in small groups*; pupils studying for GCSE Music at Preston Manor may have their lessons in pairs or individually, subject to the Director of the Music's approval. Whilst learners are encouraged to take graded exams; we have had a number of recent exam successes (including students passing Grades 6 to 8) in both practical and theoretical exams for a range of exam boards, this is by no means compulsory. We are also able to prepare Year 5 or 6 students for the Grammar School Music Aptitude Test.

The Music Academy holds Roland's Champion School for Music status, has won a Mayor of London's Excellence in Music Schools award, and has achieved ABRSM's Music Mark status for five successive years.

### **Regular Concerts, Events and Other Performance Platforms:**

- Christmas Concert – ‘We Wish You a Jazzy Christmas 2026’
- Spring Concert – solos, small ensembles and GCSE Component 1 coursework recordings
- Summer Concert
- Year 5 and 7 Performing Arts Afternoon
- Year 6 Open Evening
- Christmas Fair – Whole School
- The Whole School Shields Awards Ceremony
- Year 6 transition day music afternoon
- Termly achievement assemblies
- The Whole School Musical – currently alternate years
- Pop up site specific performances – e.g. International Piano and Guitar Day and World Music Days

### **Part C: Musical experiences**

**Regular Theatre Visits:** exposure to professional practice for specifically music and the wider performing arts. Recent theatre and concert trips have included:

- Hamilton
- Frozen
- The Phantom of the Opera
- ABBA Voyage
- Tina: The Musical
- Vivaldi: The Four Seasons by Candlelight
- World Piano Day – Performing at Kings Cross Station

These are heavily subsidised by the school or the result of successful bids for additional funding. Ticket prices for families are usually around the £10.

**Teenage Gigs:** An external performance platform (Ealing) for the Key Stage 3 and 4 bands to perform alongside bands from other schools in a gig that aims to replicate real world performance practices etc.

#### **Careers in music, the wider performing arts and media:**

Each year we aim to provide in school talks from industry specialists who are often successful ex Preston Manor students or collaborate with institutions such as The BRIT School and ICMP to highlight career pathways and post Preston Manor opportunities.

#### **Music Ambassadors:**

A small student led group of Key Stage 3 and 4 students who are musically able that represent music in the school to visitors and lead and teach music in the lower school as required.

## In the future

- Develop and consolidate opportunities for all-through-ness in music, the wider performing arts and cross curricular work in other subjects e.g. the Darkwood Manor scheme of learning which starts in Year 5, develops in Year 7 in both music and drama and continues in Year 8 art/resistant materials.
- Relaunch the Year 6 music production summer term project led by the upper school music ambassadors
- Develop the use of YuStudio across both schools
- Plan for 'We Wish You a Jazzy Christmas 2026' as a vehicle to achieve Arts Award Discover accreditation

## Further information (optional)

Links to music on Preston Manor School's external website for further and more detailed information:

<https://www.preston-manor.com/music-academy>

<https://www.preston-manor.com/key-stage-3>

<https://www.preston-manor.com/page/?title=Key+Stage+4&pid=52>

Music Department Specific Websites:

<https://www.youtube.com/@KPCJGJC>

<https://soundcloud.com/user-567477008>