Music development plan summary: Honywood School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	26-27
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Robert Philpott
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Tom Gribben
Name of local music hub	Greater Essex Music Hub: Essex Music Service

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our learners 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 learners and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our learners' 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 learners can achieve.

At Honywood School we feel music should provide essential cultural, moral and social knowledge to our learners and develop a wide range of talents, skills and habits, enabling every learner to understand, engage and thrive in an ever evolving world.

Our curriculum aims to empower our learners to see, hear, feel, actively partake and critically engage in the world through the discipline of music; enabling them to excel in life and make the future a better place.

Our curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021), non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3. We also take into account key features of the National Plan for Music Education guidance when developing our music provision.

Learners will be taught instrumental skills for keyboard, ukulele, guitar, percussion, as well as singing. All learners have access to Digital Audio Workstations to develop composition ideas and explore the role of technology in creating performing music. Ensuring music is accessible for all is a priority in how we approach our curriculum.

Learners currently have access to Auxy, Garageband and Charanga/Yustudio which they can access in school and home via their iPads.

KS3

In Cohort 7 and 8 learning is designed to develop and support individual as well as group exploration across music. Learners are encouraged to enjoy, explore, experience, develop and enhance their understanding of the arts. Designs place emphasis on the concepts of Relationships, Time, Influence and Evolution. In C7 and C8 learners have one lesson of music per fortnight.

Across their two year journey learners can expect to be intrigued and to experiment as they approach their learning. They work individually, in pairs and in groups and are given responsibility to direct their own learning. Learners are provided with support and guidance of the specialist teaching staff.

KS4

We currently follow the Eduqas GCSE Music course. Learners study GCSE music for five hours a fortnight for current C9. C10 and C11 GCSE groups have 6 hours and 15 minutes a fortnight. Learners develop a variety of musical skills such as performance, composition, theory and how to develop their general musical awareness. They also have the opportunity to develop a variety of teamwork, leadership, social and organisational skills. The course offers learners the opportunity both to expand on the knowledge they already have, as well as learning and developing knowledge of new areas of music from the present and past and around the world.

Learners learn through a combination of practical and theoretical work, guided by specialist teaching. They are able to build upon the skills learnt through KS3 music, and shape their learning in a direction that explores their interests but also challenges them to consider new music from different points of time and from around the world. There is an opportunity to take part in workshops and trips that will extend and support the knowledge given in the classroom.

Our partners

We partner with Greater Essex Music Hub and Essex Music Service to support musical opportunities for our learners. We actively partake in projects with the Braintree District Cultural Educational Partnership.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for learners to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how learners can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

***Instrumental* tuition**

Instrumental tuition is provided by Essex Music Hub, with a high number of learners currently having vocal and/or instrumental lessons. We currently offer lessons in flute, piano/keyboard, guitar/bass, drums and vocals. As demand changes this offer is adapted. Some families are able to access Financial assistance from Essex Music Service for music lessons, instrument hire and county-led ensembles. With collaboration with families, learners can study for instrumental exams with the Associated Boards of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and Rock School (RSL).

Instrument Loan

Learners can hire instruments through Essex Music Hub: Instrument Hire - Essex Music Education Hub. We also hold some instruments that learners may loan free of charge.

Clubs and practice spaces

Our practice rooms are open daily with staff supervision.

We offer learners a wide range of clubs to engage in, these include a guitar workshop, vocal group, music technology club, band skills and KS4 music theory/support.

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.

At Honywood we pride ourselves in offering a wide range of performance opportunities. These include events where music is the sole focus and other times where they compliment and support the wider world of Expressive Arts. Opportunities include the Winter Concert, Dance Show, Summer Arts, soiree evenings, school production and more.

We engage with Richard Meyrick (The Pianoman) who offers a masterclass to advanced pianists. Richard offers learners the opportunity to win a scholarship to study piano with him and we are pleased that we have some learners that have benefited from this opportunity.

Learners also have the opportunity to perform throughout the year at assemblies, open evenings and a range of events as they present themselves.

Our strong links with Essex Music Services and the BDCEP (Braintree District Cultural Educational Partnership) enables us to offer and host a wide range of additional opportunities for those at Honywood and local primary schools. These have included a

Diversity in the Arts project where Indian Classical musicians performed to all of KS3 and offered a workshop to KS4. We have also led teacher professional development for local primary schools looking to enhance their music offer. Last year we were involved with a project with the London Musical Theatre Orchestra which will be continued this year.

We frequently take a range of learners to see professional performances and workshops at Saffron Hall. We actively support local theatre by collaborating with the Mercury theatre with our Creative Careers Project (KS3) as well as seeing professional performances here and at other local and national theatres and performance halls.

In the future

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

At Honywood School we intend to continue to review the curriculum and co-curricular opportunities for learners and to build on its success in the coming years.

We are keen to maintain and develop the breadth of our co-curricular provision.

We are also looking forward to extending our links with feeder primary schools and offer some workshops in partnership with them.

Further information (optional)

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.

Essex Music Service have produced a Parent's Guide to Music Provision which gives parents valuable information about supporting their child's music education.