

Music development plan summary: Mortimer Community College

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs L Voy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs J Thornton
Name of local music hub	Gateshead & South Tyneside Council Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

At Mortimer Community College, Key Stage 3 students receive one hour of music lessons per week, for each of the three years of Key Stage 3. Key Stage 4 students who opt for our music qualification (Music as part of the Eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts) receive five hours per fortnight of curriculum time.

All students are taught by one of our two specialist music teachers. Our class teachers are experts in adapting our curriculum to meet the needs of children with additional needs and/or disabilities, and these bespoke adaptations ensure that music can be enjoyed by all. The curriculum at Mortimer is inclusive for all students, regardless of disability or SEND needs. This includes music, which is delivered to all students in Key Stage 3, regardless of their needs. Furthermore, all students can opt for music as part of their Key Stage 4 options. More information of how we support students with SEND and the offer they receive at school can be found on our SEND Information Report at: <https://mortimercommunitycollege.co.uk/about/policies/>

Our music curriculum for both Key Stages is published on our school website and can be found here: <https://mortimercommunitycollege.co.uk/subjects/music/>. The music curriculum at Mortimer follows the March 2021 model music curriculum and covers the aims set out in the National Curriculum for Music. Our curriculum is centred around performance, composition, listening, vocal work and the Musical Elements.

All students have the opportunity to play the electronic keyboard, guitar and djembe drums in lessons. Singing is covered as a whole-class activity in both Years 7 and 8. In Year 9, students are given the opportunity to sing in groups. Students have the opportunity to compose each term, working with a variety of genres.

In Key Stage 3, the majority of lesson time is spent developing keyboard and guitar skills, giving students the foundations they need to continue learning these instruments if they choose to opt for music at Key Stage 4.

Part B: Extra-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 Mortimer we have a wide variety of opportunities beyond the core curriculum which all students can take advantage of.

We provide weekly professional music tuition, each lasting 20-30 minutes, in:

- violin
- cello
- brass (all types)
- drums
- piano

Tuition takes place on a rotation basis to minimise the impact on other curriculum subjects.

We are fully supportive of giving all students the opportunity to study formal gradings of Music. Therefore, all students are given the opportunity to participate in graded examinations at all stages of their instrumental progression. The school provide free instrumental tuition, to ensure that all students, regardless of background, have the opportunity to receive instrumental tuition. The school also funds all graded music instrumental examinations. Private tuition is supplemented with Pupil Premium contributions for those students who fall into that category. In interests of fairness, non-pupil premium students also have 100% funded tuition funded lessons, covered by the school.

Gateshead & South Tyneside Music Hub provide an instrument for all students who receive tuition. These instruments can be taken home. This, along with the school funding of all lessons, ensures that music is open to all.

School choir, rock band and several instrumental groups all contribute to school performances, in conjunction with the Performing Arts department, consisting of Drama and Dance. Some members of our school choir also perform in a solo capacity. These groups rehearse on a weekly basis after school. These ensembles are open to students from all year groups and all ability levels. Student rehearsals take place in our Theatre and dedicated teaching spaces. Music tuition takes place in our music breakout area.

Students are encouraged to attend Music Hub ensembles, which are free of charge. Students are also encouraged to attend afterschool to take advantage of our music teaching spaces.

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.

We recognise the importance of musical experiences in improving students' cultural capital.

Throughout the academic year, students from all year groups have the following opportunities to perform, or encounter additional musical experiences:

- Our annual celebration event, where parents/carers are invited to attend our show, which includes dance, drama and music, including our rock band, instrumental solo performances, and school choir.
- The school's annual achievement celebration event, the ASPIRE Awards, includes a selection of performances from students, such as instrumentals or singing.
- We select a vocalist to represent Mortimer at the annual South Tyneside's Got Talent show.
- Some solo performers from Mortimer have performed at other local schools.

In the future

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

We hope to re-introduce guitar tuition and add piano and woodwind instrumental lessons to our extra-curricular offering. Access to a vocal teacher would also be desirable.

To increase our offering as part of the whole-school enrichment activities, including keyboard club and guitar club.

Provide our students with the opportunity to attend concerts and shows outside of school. We would look to make this fully funded, meaning it is open to all students regardless of their individual circumstances. Further to this, we would like to bring the music to the students, by hosting a range of live performances in school.

In an ideal world, we would have additional performance space and additional breakout rooms for tuition, rehearsal, performances etc.

When circumstances allow, we will look to reintroduce our annual Christmas Show, as well as visiting local nursing homes and/or nurseries to allow our students to perform for a larger audience.

To record KS3 student performances each term to monitor progress.

Introduce a music careers noticeboard in our department space to better inform students of possible progression within the subject and career possibilities.

Further information (optional)

Further information about Gateshead & South Tyneside Music Hub can be found at: [Gateshead & South Tyneside Music Hub \(gatesheadandsouthtynesidemusic hub.co.uk\)](https://gatesheadandsouthtynesidemusic hub.co.uk).