

# Music development plan summary: The Mountbatten School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Stu Marchant
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Heather McIlroy
Name of local music hub	Hampshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark Royal Marines Band Service

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 students in Year 7 receive 2 x 50-minute lessons of Music per week with one of those lessons taking the form of a choir rehearsal and the other being a general class music lesson.

Year 8 students receive 1 x 50-minute lesson per week. During Year 8 a mini-options process enables students to opt into Music for Year 9 when they receive 3 x 50-minute lessons per week.

There are two pathways for students who wish to study Music at Key Stage 4. Those who play instruments or sing to a good standard usually opt for GCSE Music, whilst those who are more interested in Music Technology follow the NCFE Level 2 qualification in Music Technology.

The Mountbatten Music curriculum is fully comprehensive, enabling students to progress through the Key Stages with confidence in their musical abilities. During lessons students are encouraged to use their own instruments and voices to perform and to compose. They use Apple's Logic Pro software as a tool for learning how to compose, and also for music production.

All of our Music teachers are able musicians, and this is reflected in every aspect of the work that they undertake with their students. A key focus of our work is addressing disadvantage, and there are specific programmes in place for students who fall into this category.

We are proud to have been selected as Lead School for the south of Hampshire and, in this role, we work closely with Hampshire Music Service, our Hub Lead Organisation.

As well as offering GCSE Music and Level 2 Music Technology qualifications, we encourage our students to study for ABRSM and Trinity grade exams on their chosen instrument. These are particularly important for the higher grades as grades 6-8 are level 3 qualifications (equivalent to A level).

## **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.

We have a team of 15 dedicated peripatetic instrumental and vocal teachers who visit the school each week. Lessons are offered to individuals or in small groups on all orchestral and band instruments. An extensive range of ensembles rehearse each week before school, during breaktimes and after school. There is a strong culture of singing in the school and our ensembles have recently expanded to include a steel band. Some of our more established ensembles have achieved national and international acclaim. Details can be found elsewhere on the website.

The Music department has a pool of instruments which are available to hire for a small termly fee. Instruments can also be hired from Hampshire Music Service. Details of how to sign up for lessons can also be found elsewhere on the website. All peripatetic lessons are subsidised by the school, and larger subsidies are available for some students such as those who qualify for Pupil Premium support.

In addition to the regular rehearsals organised by the Music staff, students regularly organise their own bands and ensembles and book rehearsal spaces with the Music staff. A week-long Mountbatten Music Festival is held each year in April or May which enables young musicians of all abilities and standards to perform to their peers and to receive feedback from expert musicians.

Students who participate in school ensembles are encouraged to progress to Area, County and National ensembles such as the Hampshire County Youth Orchestra or the National Youth Choir of Great Britain.

## 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 organise an extensive programme of performances and musical opportunities throughout each year. These include high-profile events such as performances in the National Festival of Music for Youth, the National Concert Band Festival, as well as concerts in Romsey Abbey and other venues across the region. We also hold informal “Car Park Concerts” and other ad hoc events throughout the year. The Mountbatten Big Band is an internationally acclaimed ensemble and in recent years has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival, The North Sea Jazz Festival and at the Royal Albert Hall in the Schools Prom.

Our partnership with the Royal Marines Band Service enables us to participate in workshops and to attend concerts given by the bands. A number of former students are current members of the RMBS. We also host sessions from former students who are currently working in the Music industry.

Our students have also benefited from participating in workshops with leading industry professionals such as Carol Jarvis and the Brass Academy, Dominic Ellis-Peckham and, most recently, our Chamber Choir attended a workshop with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain.

## In the future

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

The Mountbatten School is proud to have its own Music Academy which delivers an extensive programme of outreach work into local Primary schools as well as catering for the needs of the wider community through our Community Choir and Community Wind Band. Details can be found elsewhere on the website.

We are always seeking to be at the forefront of any developments in the field of Music Education and are quick to adopt new programmes of study or to adapt to new trends in Music. As opportunities arise, additional performances, workshops and other events are added to the school calendar.

## 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 to for support beyond the school.