

Music development plan summary: Ringwood School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Lindsay Himmel
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Leanne Symonds
Name of local music hub	HMS
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

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.

Students in Key Stage 3 at Ringwood School:

Students in Year 7 and 8 receive 2 hours of curriculum music lessons per fortnight. Some students will receive both their lessons in the same week.

In Year 9, students can opt to follow the music pathway as part of their creative curriculum. Whilst it is available to all students, of all abilities, not all students in Year 9 study music. Approximately 20% of the year group will follow this pathway. The music pathway includes lessons in music, music technology and music theory. Students receive 3 hours of lessons per fortnight.

Students follow a bespoke curriculum, with many units informed by the Model Music Curriculum. All students sing and play keyboards in key stage 3. Music Technology is used for sequencing. Students are encouraged to bring their own instruments into

school to play in full class ensemble playing. There are also opportunities to play West African drums, and band instruments during curriculum topics.

Opportunities to support 'band skills' at Year 9 are funded by RSAF – the Ringwood School Arts Foundation and are offered to those who have opted for the Yr 9 Music Pathway. [Ringwood School Arts Foundation – Supporting Excellence in the Performing Arts \(rsaf.co.uk\)](http://rsaf.co.uk)

A link to the curriculum can be found here:

[Ringwood School - Curriculum Overview](#)

Students at Key Stage 4:

At Key Stage 4, students can opt to study GCSE Music (Pearson Edexcel) or BTEC Music Practice (Level 2). They cannot study both. Students receive 5 hours of tuition per fortnight.

Students at Key Stage 5:

Students can opt to study BTEC in Music Performance (Level 3) or A Level Music Technology. It is possible to opt for both qualifications. Students receive 10 hours of tuition per fortnight.

Curriculum outlines can be found here:

[Ringwood School - Music Performance BTEC](#)

[Ringwood School - Music Technology A Level](#)

Graded music exams:

Students may opt to enter for external music qualifications if learning an instrument in school. These include qualifications from ABRSM, Trinity and Trinity Rock and Pop.

We work with the SEND department, and are lucky to have TA support for some students. There are currently specialists in Music and Performing Arts who support in lessons, and also during extra-curricular activities to ensure students with a range of abilities can access opportunities.

Part B: Music Tuition and 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.

Instrumental lessons are offered in piano, violin, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, drum kit, trumpet, tenor horn, trombone, acoustic guitar, electric guitar and bass guitar. Vocal

lessons are offered to those in year 10 and above. We have some instruments available for hire.

[Ringwood School - Instrumental Tuition](#)

There is a wide range of opportunities for students to participate in choirs and ensembles. There is a choir which is for any student in year 7-13. There are currently 148 members. There is also a boys only choir. Ensembles include a senior jazz band, and junior jazz band, string group, flute group, guitar group and brass group. There is no audition to join the choir, all are welcome, but students are expected to commit to the term and perform in concerts. There is no charge for these extra-curricular groups.

Ringwood School offers opportunities for participation in musical theatre. The main school production takes place in February and is open to students in year 7-13, and is cast on audition. A junior school production takes place during Activities Week in July and is open to any student in year 7-9. There is a lunchtime musical theatre club which is open to all students in year 7 and 8.

Students are encouraged to join ensembles outside of school such as Christchurch Music Centre, Wessex Youth Orchestra, and HMS ensembles.

Students are encouraged to rehearse independently, individually and as ensembles during lunchtime or after school. Students can use the practice rooms in the department once they have booked with a teacher.

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.

There are many opportunities for students during the academic year. These include:

- Performances during the drinks reception at Celebration Evening
- Performance during the Celebration Evening
- Performances during the School Open Evening
- Performances during the 6th Form Open Evening
- Performances at the Rotary Christmas Dinner
- Performances at Trinity Church Carers Christmas celebration
- Sixth Form Music Students Christmas performances in care homes
- Carol Concerts (to a total audience of over 800)
- Performances in *The Stables* before and during the interval of the Carol Concerts
- The School Production (6 performances, to a total audience of 2400)
- The Summer Concert (to an audience of 400)

- Junior School Production – performed to Year 6s from feeder schools
- Junior School Production – performed to an audience of 400

There are numerous opportunities during the year where Key Stage 3 students in music lessons are invited into Key Stage 4 or 5 lessons to watch a performance, inspiring the younger students and open conversations about opportunities and choices in the curriculum in later years.

There are trips organised during the year to a variety of venues, including The Mayflower, Southampton, Chichester Festival Theatre, London's West End theatres and Poole Lighthouse to see orchestral or Musical Theatre performances. Students who are Pupil Premium are able to access funding towards opportunities. Parents can also apply for support through the *Ringwood School Arts Foundation*.

In the future

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

The Music Department hopes to continue to offer this vast range of opportunities in the future. We would like to see more students take up 1-1 and group instrumental tuition, which in turn will hopefully increase numbers in Key Stage 4 and 5.