

English Martyrs' Catholic School

Music Curriculum Statement

Key Message: Intention

We aim to create the best musicians.

Music education forms an essential part of a rich and balanced curriculum; one that every child should be entitled to as part of a rounded education. Music at EMS contributes to every aspect of a child's development and creates a forum where students can use music to express themselves, communicate with their peers and be creative in a safe and accepting environment, where there is mutual respect and genuine concern for others. It fosters sensitivity and tolerance towards others, whilst building on cognitive skills, self-confidence and self-esteem. Music allows students to express themselves through a form of creative intelligence that helps them to develop richer lives as adults. The Music at EMS is academically rigorous, disciplined, and aims to offer breadth and depth of opportunity to all students, regardless of ability. The department aims to display and promote excellence through its teaching and extra-curricular provision, allowing for a deeper wealth of knowledge and appreciation of music.

The Music Department aims to be the vehicle that demonstrates the ethos and values of the school through its leadership and involvement in the spiritual life.

We recognise that our students come from a range of different areas and postcodes where there is social deprivation. As a result, our students begin their secondary school life below the level of expected prior attainment, not having had the opportunity to play a musical instrument or experience live music. Our Music curriculum takes these students from below expected prior attainment, to meet and exceed the expectations of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3, through a clear progressive pathway that develops students' knowledge.

Music at English Martyrs' is life transforming and is a universal offer to all students. We appreciate that students' experience of Music in feeder primary schools is varied and often limited, and so, the Music at EMS seeks to enrich the life of our students through the deepening of knowledge in the classroom as well as the extra-curricular community and wider cultural experiences such as our Gamelan workshops, Karalan Mass and our Year 9 Cultural Focus Day. Through our involvement in the *Erasmus* programme, we have formed links with European schools, offering students the chance to experience music from other cultures. We also have strong partnerships with musicians from Birmingham Conservatoire, the Bardi Orchestra and the RAF Orchestra who give regular concerts in our Auditorium, exposing to students to new, challenging music from the Western Classical tradition.

As a Music Department we aim to give students a love of music that will last a lifetime.

Implementation

The Key Stage 3 curriculum centres around the development and deepening of musical knowledge by introducing students to a broad repertoire of music from the Western Classical tradition to popular music and music from around the world. This declarative knowledge enables students to be sensitive to, familiar with and confident in a body of musical knowledge, procedural knowledge and vocabulary whilst equipping them with the technical skills to perform, compose and to critically analyse music using extended technical musical vocabulary.

Schemes of work in Year 8 allow plentiful opportunities for pupils to return to and consolidate learning from Year 7, extending students' ability to engage with the creative process of improvisation, composition and performance in an ensemble and at times, as a soloist. Students further develop the ability to discuss and manipulate the elements of music and extend their knowledge and use of music notation.

Y7	Y8
Singing	Musical Devices
Notation	Latin American Music
Instruments of the Orchestra	Film Music
Musicals	Candlemas (Song writing)
Western Classical: Baroque	Western Classical: Classical to Romantic
African Music	Jazz and Blues

Singing is a core part of the Key Stage 3 curriculum with many opportunities given to develop aural skills and the ability to sing in three-part harmony.

Most importantly, music at Key Stage 3 encourages the God-given talents of each student by enabling students to develop their musicianship to the full, fostering a musical community through shared music making and placing art music at the heart of the whole school liturgical celebration.

Regardless of whether students opt for GCSE or A Level Music, Music forms an integral part of the curriculum into Year 9 and beyond. Students at all year groups are actively involved in liturgical singing as part of Mass, in assemblies and in the annual Carol Services. Year 9 also take part in a Music Focus Day, looking at Music Gamalan, Indian and African Music with the opportunity to perform on Gamalan instruments as part of their learning.

Our GCSE and A Level students follow the Edexcel syllabus, which involves the key areas of performing, composing, listening and appraising. GCSE and A Level Music builds on the knowledge acquired at Key Stage 3 and develops students' ability to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts through the study of 'set works'.

EDEXCEL GCSE MUSIC

PERFORMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Solo and Ensemble Performance▪ Grade 4 Standard▪ Total Duration: 4 minutes
COMPOSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 2 Compositions: 1 free composition and 1 to a given brief▪ Total Duration: 3 minutes
LISTENING AND APPRAISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Study of 8 Set Works from 4 different areas of study: Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen, Fusions

EDEXCEL A LEVEL MUSIC

PERFORMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Solo/Ensemble Performance▪ Grade 7 Standard▪ Total Duration: 8 minutes
COMPOSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1 free composition or to a given brief▪ Total Duration: 4 minutes▪ 1 technical study: Bach Chorale
LISTENING AND APPRAISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Study of 13 Set Works from 6 different areas of study: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions, Application to Unfamiliar Music

Co-Curricular & Extra-Curricular

Whilst we want students to achieve the very best examination results possible, we believe our curriculum goes beyond what is examinable. As a department, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for those students who want to develop their musical skills and abilities beyond a classroom curriculum. Individual instrumental and vocal lessons are available to all students throughout the school, and currently over 200 students at the school have lessons, with specialist teachers on a weekly basis. We also have a vibrant collection of musical ensembles, which we believe, offer opportunities to a wide range of students, allowing them to collaborate with other musicians and thus develop their performance skills, understanding and love of the subject. Where possible we endeavour to expose our students to live music including visits to De Montfort Hall and West End Theatres. All students involved in the extra-curricular activities are given regular opportunities to perform both in school concerts including the annual Year 7 Music Showcase, St Cecilia Concert and the Christmas Carol Service which features over 200 performers. Students have also performed in prestigious venues such as Leicester, Nottingham, and York Cathedral, De Montfort Hall, and the Royal Albert Hall.

Schola Cantorum (all years)
School Choir (Y9-13)
Junior Choir (Y7&8)
Orchestra (all years)
Guitar Ensemble (all years)
Steel Pans (all years)
Jazz Band (all years)
Brass Ensemble (all years)
Woodwind Ensemble (Y7&8)

Impact

The impact of the Music Curriculum is evident through the engagement of our students, tangible in all lessons. Key Stage 3 work demonstrates good and exceptional understanding, with students able to articulate the progress in their learning. The uptake at GCSE level is at the highest level since 2016, with 38% of students achieving level 8 or 9s. 2019 saw a large uptake at A Level, with a group of 8 students opting for the subject. In general, numbers at A level are between 2-4 and above the national average. EMS are one of only a few schools to be offering A Level music locally. A high percentage of students who opt for A Level Music, go on to study music at university.

Instrumental and Vocal tuition at the school, has increased considerably over the last 3 years from 89 to over 200 students opting to study an instrument or voice with our specialist teachers. Retention is good, with many students continuing to learn an instrument throughout their time at EMS. There is 100% pass rate amongst those students taking Trinity or ABRSM exams within the last 3 years.

The impact of the extra-curricular provision can be seen throughout the school. EMS has a reputation for providing students with endless opportunities to perform and engage in making music to a high standard. We have over 200 students who are actively involved and committed to various ensembles. Regular concerts and masses give students the opportunity to display their talents and we regularly receive compliments from audiences regarding the level of musicality with which our students are able to perform. As a department, we firmly believe that it is the enjoyment of the students and staff alongside their commitment and enthusiasm to make music that drives the department's success.

