



Music Development Plan Summary

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	01 September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	01 September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr Giovanni Forestieri
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Azra Jennings
Name of local music hub	Hounslow Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Not Applicable

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students across three areas – music curriculum, extra-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' 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 Students can achieve.

At Heston Community School, we believe that music is a vital part of a broad and ambitious education. This development plan sets out how we deliver high-quality music education across our school community, ensuring that all pupils—regardless of their starting point or background—have the opportunity to create, perform and enjoy music.

Our music curriculum is designed to give students a solid foundation in understanding and reading music notation, utilizing the Kodály method, music dictation, and sight-reading. These elements foster broader musical understanding and help students access a wide range of musical repertoire.

Key Stage 3 Provision: The curriculum balances the three core pillars of musical progression—performing, composing, and listening.

Year 7 Focus: Foundational rhythm, notation, vocal performance, and sight-reading (Grade 1 ABRSM). Topics include: Music & Me, Programme Music, and Musical Passport.

Year 8 Focus: Continued development of rhythm and notation, vocal performance, sight-reading (Grade 2 ABRSM), ensemble performance, exploration of blues and jazz structures, and using digital audio workstations (DAWs) for sequencing. Topics include: Songwriting, Musical Roots, and History of Dance Music.

Year 9 Focus: Advanced rhythmic exercises, notation, vocal performance, and sight-reading (Grade 3 ABRSM). Topic: Music & Media.

Our Music curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). However, most of our students have not experienced music in primary school. Music activities follow a cyclical pattern of listening, singing, performing, and creating to expose students to artistic content and the process of making music. Students are required to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time, often through whole-class ensemble teaching across various year groups.

Hounslow Music Service provides instrumental tuition and instrument hire. The school subsidises instrumental fees to make them more accessible to our students. We encourage our students to take ABRSM Performance Grades during the academic year, in collaboration with the local Hub and with support from instrumental tutors. Recording sessions are monitored and evaluated prior to final submission.

In Years 7 and 8, students have a double music lesson every other week. In Year 9, students participate in a double music lesson on a 10-week rotation with other Expressive Arts subjects.

We are excited to introduce Eduqas GCSE Music for students who select this as a Key Stage 4 option. These students will receive three lessons per week.

Our full Curriculum Maps are available on the School Website.

We support disabled students, including those in our onsite Centre for the Deaf. We ensure our Music curriculum is accessible to SEND students by maintaining equally high ambitions for all learners. Students with SEND or low literacy levels are supported through dual-coded graphic scores, scaffolded performance activities, flashcards for note identification, step-by-step activities, and simplified instrumental tasks. Students in our Centre for the Deaf benefit from Bluetooth devices that enhance sound perception at both high and low frequencies.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

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

At Heston Community School, we offer instrumental tuition for a variety of instruments, as well as Music Theory sessions. Lessons are delivered by the local Music Hub, Hounslow Music Service. Instrumental lessons are scheduled during lesson time, registration to period 6, while Music Theory classes take place on Saturday mornings at the Music Hub.

Our Provision: In partnership with Hounslow Music Service and private tutors, we provide weekly one-to-one and small-group tuition in the following:

Strings: Violin, Cello

Woodwind & Brass: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet

Guitars & Percussion: Electric/Acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drum Kit, Piano/Keyboard

Vocals: Classical, Musical Theatre, and Contemporary Vocal Coaching

Students are encouraged to hire instruments through the local Music Hub or the school service to help establish a regular practice routine at home.

Financial background is never a barrier to musical achievement at our school. Through Pupil Premium funding, we cover most of the cost for instrumental lessons for eligible disadvantaged students and offer free, long-term instrument hire to any student enrolled in our tuition programmes.

During lesson time, students are encouraged to perform in both ensemble and solo settings. At lunchtime and after-school clubs, students can develop their musical repertoire by joining rock or classical ensembles.

Our co-curricular music programme provides a vibrant, inclusive environment for students to develop their musical skills and perform together.

Weekly Ensembles Schedule:

- Monday Lunchtime: Music Homework Club (Open to all year groups)
- Tuesday Lunchtime: School Choir (Year 7)
- Wednesday Lunchtime: Rock Band (No experience required)
- Wednesday After School: Vocal Coaching (Open to all year groups).
- Thursday Lunchtime: Piano and Guitar Club (Open to all year groups)
- Friday Lunchtime: Music Production (Open to all year groups)

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 Heston Community School, students are encouraged to participate in academic events such as the Mid Term Auditions, Winter Concert, Spring Festival, and Heston's Got Talent.

Students prepare their repertoire for the Mid Term Auditions and, after receiving feedback, organise their practice schedules to meet the criteria for successful participation in school events. Additionally, students regularly perform at assemblies and lunchtime concerts in the library.

School events are free for parents and carers. Students participating in events are entitled to receive up to 10 free tickets to invite family and friends.

To support our students' career aspirations, the school is developing partnerships with the University of West London for Musical Theatre and with Hounslow Music Service for Battle of the Bands and Music Production initiatives.

In the future

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

To continually enhance our musical provision, our department is focusing on three key improvement targets for this academic year:

1. Strengthen Primary Transition: Collaborate closely with our top three feeder primary schools to map their Year 6 Music curriculum. This ensures our Year 7 starter units build directly on students' existing practical skills and avoid unnecessary repetition. Additionally, we aim to improve participation and retention in our school choir by actively promoting and rewarding attendance among selected Year 7 students.
2. Expand Digital Composition: Integrate cloud-based music software such as BandLab into the Year 8 and 9 curriculum to boost engagement in musical composition, particularly among lower-attaining girls.
3. Increase Co-Curricular Participation: Raise the percentage of students opting for Music GCSE by July 2027.