

Music development plan summary: Rutlish School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	16/07/24
Date this summary will be reviewed	16/09/2025
Name of the school music lead	Dawn Steele
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Rebecca Doherty
Name of local music hub	Merton Music Foundation
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Ursuline High, Tolworth Girls, Wimbledon High, Raynes Park

Part A: Curriculum

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.

Curriculum Intent:

Rutlish School Vision: Rutlish School is committed in providing the highest quality education and opportunities for students.

Through all we do, we prepare students for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences later in life. We aim to inspire, enable and facilitate lifelong learners able to build on their individual strengths and capabilities, who achieve their ambitions. We seek to support our students becoming healthy, happy, successful modern people young adults; knowledgeable, kind, aware, confident, capable and skilful members of society. (Curriculum Intent)

Rutlish School Mission Statement: **“Modeste, Strenue, Sancte: Be modest, be thorough, pursue righteousness”**

We want students to:

- succeed (we strive to provide pathways to support their success)
- embrace challenge, build resilience, overcome setbacks and become increasingly independent in pursuit of their goals
- be aware of their responsibilities and feel confident to participate and contribute to society. (Curriculum Intent)

The Music programme at Rutlish delivers a broad curriculum of music from a range of historical and cultural perspectives. Students are invited to open their minds to new genres of music and explore them using a broad range of vocabulary. They are exposed to new instruments and traditions, both live and recorded. By broadening horizons, students develop their musical interests, passions and opinions. We have an extensive instrumental programme and boys can opt to have piano lessons, strings, guitar (lead, bass and acoustic) drums, brass and woodwind and music tech. We have just installed two iMac suites so all student can learn Music Tech and composition from Year 7. Our peripatetic team are all professional musicians themselves and the boys can either have 20- or 30-minute lessons before and after school and during the school day. In Music, we are fully inclusive. We use a range of strategies for SEND students to be able to access and progress through the full curriculum. All students in class are taught the full curriculum.

At Key Stage 3, students experience music through performing, composing and listening. Topics include reggae, blues, folk, hip-hop, film music and the orchestra to name a few. Performances in lessons focus on keyboard and ukulele skills. Outside of lessons, musical opportunities at Rutlish are fast growing, with students able to take advantage of a range of clubs and projects.

Following EDEXCEL GCSE Music course, we teach 8 set works ranging from modern day to pieces of music from history. Students learn about the 8 pieces and broaden their knowledge of the music curriculum and areas of study. Students enhance and improve their performance and composition abilities with regular practice, rehearsal, performance opportunities and coursework.

The music qualification enables us to teach engaging content through the context of our new areas of study and set works. It includes four areas of study, each containing

two set works which support the teaching of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language through specific examples of how key musical content is used within specific pieces of music. It allows students to learn in-depth appraising skills in preparation for their assessments.

Time allocated for curriculum music:

KS3: one hour a week for Years 7, 8 and 9

KS4: 95 hours of curriculum music time (5 lessons a fortnight)

Rutlish Music Department Links and Partnerships

Rutlish also has recently formed links with a variety of different institutions, and organisations. In order to provide for a diverse range of students, the Rutlish Music Department believes that this must be reflected in the links and opportunities that are given to our students. All these links or partnerships are an extension of the music curriculum currently provided to the students and build on knowledge learnt within the curriculum music time. Links have also been formed to be able to widen the students' opportunities and knowledge of the music industry and the variety of diverse professions that are directly and indirectly linked with the subject of music.

List of links and partnerships:

- Old Ruts Rugby Club
- Parish Players
- Blues and Roots Ensemble
- Wimbledon High School
- Merton Music Foundation
- Steve Bradshaw Jazz
- St. Mary's Church, Merton
- Crown Lane Studio
- Sacred Heart Church Wimbledon
- Ricards Lodge High School

Music Qualifications

Students have the opportunity to apply for music qualifications and awards throughout the academic year. The school offers the typical music exams e.g., ABRSM/Rock School/etc. We believe that all students should enjoy, experience and master their chosen instruments but also most do not want to experience the added pressure of exam grades. All students are made aware of the exam process and if they would like to sit an exam then will be entered.

At KS4, those students that wish to continue their musical career at Rutlish, the students will study for the Edexcel Music GCSE as their qualification. Providing a range of analytical, composition and performance skills. At KS5 students can study BTEC Music as part of the RR6 offer.

Part B: Extra-curricular

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.

Peripatetic Lessons

At Rutlish, we believe that no matter your prior experience or opportunities; as well as your current socio-economic status, every single student should be given the opportunity to access the same education as those that are at fee-paying institutions and have had the opportunity to study an instrument from a young age. We provide over 70+ students with free weekly music lessons on their chosen instrument and will always endeavour to provide instrumental lessons to those that want them. The instruments that are currently available to take private lessons in are as follows:

- Drum lessons - provided by Mr. Aki Fujimoto
- Piano lessons - provided by Mr. Rob Cocovinis
- Brass lessons- provided by Mr. Andrew Nash
- Guitar lessons - provided by Mr. Myles Sutton

Extra-Curricular on offer at Rutlish School:

- The Piano Society
- Music Tech club
- Choir
- Guitar club
- Jam Band
- Drumming Club
- School Production (2024 production is "Oliver! The Musical")

Students at Rutlish School are exposed to a variety of opportunities outside of their curriculum music time. There are always opportunities that are advertised to our students to participate in workshops, competitions, orchestras, choirs outside of school hours. These will be promoted during academic music lessons, posters throughout the school as well as on Teams.

Students are also encouraged to come to the music department before school, break times, lunch times and after school where the music practice rooms are opened if a student does not have the space or opportunity to practice their instrument off-site.

The department consists of the following:

- 2 Main Music Classroom with Macs for 30 students
- 5 Practice Rooms
- 1 Recording Studio

Students that do not choose to carry on with music at KS4 are still encouraged and welcome to be part of the music department to evolve their creativity and love of music.

In KS4, there is a proportion of their qualification that is coursework:

- 1 Solo performance
- 1 Ensemble performance
- 1 Free Composition
- 1 Set Brief Composition

If a student feels that they need more time on this, then Saturday mornings are offered by the Head of Music for extra contact hours for support as well as being able to access all of the equipment that they will need to succeed in their course.

Local Music Hub

Rutlish's local music hub is the Merton Music Foundation. The Head of Music Dawn Steele also has strong links with a large number of secondary and primary schools.

Part C: Musical Experiences & Opportunities

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 offer trips to:

The West End to see Wicked

Wimbledon Theatre to see the annual pantomime

The Royal Albert Hall to perform as part of the Merton Choir

Further opportunities for musical experience are:

Prizegiving – students who play instruments are invited to rehearse and perform at the event.

Y7 Commemoration of School Founder - students who play instruments are invited to rehearse and perform at the event.

School Assemblies – both students and peripatetic staff are invited to showcase music in assembly for all year groups.

Musical showcases intermittently throughout the year to encourage those interested to participate.

Performance Opportunities

Each year we give all of the student's multiple opportunities to perform as part of the Rutlish wider community. During each academic Music lesson, students are encouraged to perform and skills are built through the safe environment created within the music classroom. This creates a sense of 'normality' of performing- within the school and builds up confidence of students so there is a large community of support when it comes to performing at the end of term concerts.

Yearly concerts include:

- Christmas Concert
- #getupandgiveitago (termly event)
- Summer Concert
- Whole school production (Bugsy Malone 2023/24 and Oliver 2024/25)
- Summer Sounds at Ricards Lodge High School
- Winter Sounds at Ricards Lodge High School
- Blues and Roots at Wimbledon High School
- Battle of the Bands (Wimbledon High School host)
- Summer Songs (MMF)
- Compilation of coursework pieces
- Weekly Friday's Music Share (which goes out to all staff)
- Gutsfest Music festival at Old Ruts
- Rutsfest Music Festival at Old Ruts
- The Parish Players-annual Pantomime in Merton

Future Planning

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

The Music Department at Rutlish is consistently reviewing their curriculum to make sure that it is ambitious; but also caters to our student's needs. With an ever-evolving world due to technology, we aim to keep up to date with the skills that our students will need in the future to be able to succeed in life. Each term we have a student curriculum panel which enables us to maintain our high standards in the music department and match up with our student voice of our cohort's needs. We aim to provide as many extra-curricular clubs as possible to our students and will always be adapting these clubs to what our students want each year.

We are aiming to grow the department to offer KS5 Music in the future and have started the plans to be able to offer this to our students in a few years by changing from the BTEC at KS4 to GCSE. Giving our students the best all rounded platform to start Music at KS5.

This year we will be looking to see the demand for trumpet/saxophone/strings peripatetic lessons to build the music department further and give our students a wider variety of opportunities.

Rutlish Learning Journey



Further Information

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 for support beyond the school.

Please email Dawn Steele (Subject Lead: Music) with any questions about what is offered through the Music Department at Rutlish and how we can support your child further in their music education.

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