

Music development plan summary: Reading School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023/24
Date this summary was published	3 rd June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Mr Oliver Griffin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Tom Evans
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Must Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Garsington Opera Company

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.

The details of the School’s taught Music Curriculum offer can be found within the following 3 ‘Key Stage’ curriculum documents:

[Reading School - Curriculum \(reading-school.co.uk\)](https://www.reading-school.co.uk)

KS3

For Curriculum Music, each class has 3 taught lessons per fortnight in both of Years 7 and 8.

Year 7 and 8 have Electives in musical activities such as Recording & Producing, Pop Up Orchestra, Beginner’s Drum Kit and Build-a-Band.

The Reading School music curriculum is informed by the ‘Model Music Curriculum’, but is not affixed to it.

Year 7 music has a focus on practical musicianship and music theory. Pupils begin their Reading School journey will collaborative music making (singing), culminating in a whole year group concert at the end of the first half term. We then cover reading music, keyboard skills (both solo

& duet), the orchestra and programme music, and popular music. The year currently finishes with a term long "Music For All" project, where students are allocated either a trumpet, trombone, flute, clarinet or saxophone. Students use curriculum time to have the experience of learning an instrument, with the option to continue on playing with peripatetic staff into Year 8. The project is subsidised by the school and does not cost the students anything, and there is particular focus on the learning, progress and continuation of PP students. Year 7 students have to option of taking their instrument home for further practice/playing and also to be a part of a 'Year 7 Orchestra' which takes place outside of curriculum time.

Year 8 – Similar to Year 7, the curriculum builds on developing music theory and practical musicianship, but incorporates more composition. Year 8 begins with jazz and blues music, learning improvisation scales and ensemble performance, before moving on to two composition styles: one popular/modern done on BandLab (DAW software) and another classical, which culminates in using MuseScore4 (classical composition software). KS3 ends with a "Year 8 House Music" where each House is in charge of creating a 20-minute programme for a music competition. The competition has a variety of categories from soloists to ensembles, and one 'whole class song', so that all members of the class are involved musically. Lessons are spent preparing for the competition, with a project leader being at the forefront of the rehearsal process. Students also need to create a programme, deliver compering during the competition and organise stage hands.

KS4

Students opting for Curriculum Music for GCSE have 5 lessons per fortnight in Years 9-11 (the same as all other options subjects). This terminates in a Pearson Edexcel GCSE qualification.

Year 9 and 10 have Electives in musical activities such as Music Technology and Rockband Workshop

In Year 9, students begin formal lessons in composition to support coursework in Y10 & 11. The curriculum also focuses on advancing music theory to a comfortable level needed for GCSE analysis in Year 10 (key signatures/interval training/cadences/dominant 7ths/modulations/extended chords). This is taught through a mixture of singing, practical musicianship and manuscript work. There is also more focus throughout the year for the students to work on their primary performance discipline, bringing it into lessons where appropriate. In lesson solo and ensemble recitals also take place on a termly basis.

Through Y10 & 11, students have 1 composition lesson a week where they work on coursework briefs and the rest are spent working through the anthology of set works laid out by Edexcel. The set works are a broad range of styles: Baroque concerto, piano music of Beethoven, jazz/bossa nova, African/Celtic/EDM fusion, musical theatre, music for film, Baroque German lieds and popular music. Performances are included intermittently, and are rehearsals for the recital they will give in Y11. All GCSE music students are expected to be a member of at least one ensemble and participate in all concerts.

Students opting for Curriculum Music at A Level have 12 lessons per fortnight in Years 12-13 (the same as all other options subjects). This terminates in an AQA A Level qualification. The curriculum format is very similar to GCSE with balance of composition, analysis and performance, but at a higher level for all three. Students are expected to be in at least one vocal

and one instrumental ensemble, participate in all concerts and also be a part of the organisation of a student led public charity concert.

Students can undertake instrumental and vocal lessons with peripatetic teachers, who all work to a variety of accredited exam boards: ABRSM, Trinity College, Trinity Rock and Pop, Rockschoo and Music Teachers Board (MTB). Peripatetic teachers can teach all levels from preparatory grade to ARSM diploma. Peripatetic teachers in the department are a mix of private (self-employed) and part of the Berkshire Music Trust.

ABRSM instrumental and vocal exams are hosted by the school at least once a year (more if there is the demand).

The department has academic and co-curricular links with Queen Anne's and The Abbey schools, collaborating on musicals, masterclasses, enrichment projects (such as producing and recording) and revision sessions.

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.

Tuition in:

Lessons are available in all orchestral woodwind, brass and string instruments.

We also offer lessons in:

- Organ
- Piano
- Electric guitar
- Acoustic & classical guitar
- Drum kit
- Orchestral percussion

Fee Info: between £22 - £28 per half hour, depending on the tutor.

PP pupils are eligible to use their PP Pledge money towards instrumental tuition throughout the academic year.

PP students who have lessons with Berkshire Music Trust peripatetic teachers are also eligible for discount.

Ensembles:

- Junior Choir
- Senior Choir
- Chapel Choir
- Intermediate Guitar Ensemble
- Advanced Guitar Ensemble

- Junior Jazz Band
- Senior Jazz Band
- Reading School Orchestra
- Year 7 Orchestra
- Lent Term only (in collaboration with Kendrick School): Mass choir (mixed voices), symphony orchestra, concert band and auditioned chamber ensembles.

Students also have the opportunity to engage with their Houses' entry for the annual House Music competition in November, whether a part of the large entries (50+ people), smaller ensemble (bands/chamber ensembles) or auditioning the junior/senior soloist.

How to join: Chapel Choir & Senior Jazz Band – audition only. Auditions are advertised on the 'Reading School Students' Teams page and around the department.

All other ensembles have no entry requirements, though there is a recommended minimum level/grade for each (see music co-curricular timetable). Co-curricular timetable posted termly to all students.

Students at Reading School can also access music centres and higher-level learning in the area:

- Berkshire Music Trust Reading Music Centre
- National Youth Orchestra (auditioned)
- Slough Music Service Music Centre
- Berkshire National Youth Orchestra (auditioned)

Instruments available to hire/borrow:

- Instrument hire for all instruments is available through partnership with Berkshire Music Trust (between £49.50 - £97.00 per term, depending on the instrument).
- Reading School also offers the Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme (AIPS) where families can purchase instruments through the school at a discounted rate.

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.

- Annual House Music at the Hexagon Theatre, Reading
- Weekly Chapel Hymn
- Trips (recently Barcelona 2023 and Tuscany 2024)
- Carol Service – all students invited, selected students/ensembles perform
- Joint Musical with Queen Anne's
- RS Orchestra Concert
- Classical Guitar Concert – all students invited
- Air Ambulance Concert – led by Sixth Form students
- Jazz/Big Band evening
- Evensongs/Services – all students invited, selected students perform

- Year 13 Leavers Concert
- Summer Music Festival
- October Year 7 concert – all Year 7 students perform
- Leaver’s Concert
- Masterclasses in collaboration with The Abbey
- Commemoration Service – all students attend, selected students perform
- Garsington Opera Company – The opera company come to RS and give a full day vocal workshop. Boys are then invited to watch an opera from the company in July at the Wormsley Estate in Stokenchurch at a discounted rate (£5 - 7). Opportunity is open to all students/all abilities.
- Let's Sing! Competition at the Hexagon for vocalists
- Belonging Week for Y7 & Y10 – trips to musicals (recently Les Mis, Wicked and Lion King), Bate Museum at Oxford University (history lecture + students get to have a go on instruments of famous composers: Beethoven, Handel, Haydn), visit to a recording studio
- Outreach programmes to primary schools – Music For All Programme – Reading School students offering short lessons in their musical discipline

In the future

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

- Full review of Creative Arts provision at Reading School (Summer 2024 – Autumn 2024)
- Look into increasing the number of pupils taking instrumental tuition privately
- Running tours/residentials for other advanced ensembles (orchestra/Big Band)
- Further collaboration between Creative Arts subjects, looking at cross-curricular links.