

Music development plan summary: Leighton Middle School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Abbie Ingold
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Inspiring Music
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

A copy of the curriculum overview can be found on the Leighton Middle School website here: <https://www.leightonmiddle.org.uk/Learning/Music/>

All pupils receive 1 hour of timetabled music per week throughout the school year. In these lessons, they cover a broad range of topics that ensure development of skills from Year 5 all the way through to Year 8. This is influenced by the Model Music Curriculum, National Curriculum, CPD sessions and feedback from liaisons with local upper schools. Throughout each year, there are opportunities for students to sing and/or play different instruments during their music lessons.

Leighton Middle School has a good relationship with the Bedfordshire music hub 'Inspiring Music', which provides up-to-date curriculum developments and CPD opportunities in the local area.

KS2 music begins with singing as an accessible start to their middle school music experience, teaching the basics of listening and performing skills. They progress from there to learning more instrumental skills across different instruments whilst developing

their appraising skills through listening and composition introduced later in the year. Year 6 incorporates the basic performing, composing and appraising skills from Year 5 and carries those forward with a more focused approach to developing these skills further. They are also introduced to a wider variety of styles of music and technologies which they experience through genre-specific instruments not previously learned, including DJing which was not previously taught. Through a scheme run by Inspiring Music, we are able to teach whole-class DJing in Year 6 and KS3. This was following a successful trial in the last academic year.

KS3 continues the development of instrumental skills that ran through KS2 (guitar, ukulele and keyboard) with the opportunity to use these in other assessed units throughout the year to support mastery of an instrument. They cover more in-depth vocabulary within the Inter-Related Dimensions of Music that influences their performances and compositions to a higher level. There are cross-overs with other forms of media such as film and TV that broadens the pupils' understanding of some of the other ways that music is used in everyday life, with links to careers in music and sound production.

Pupils with SEN and Pupil Premium are supported in these lessons through quality-first teaching and targeted support within lessons based on learning needs from IEPs and One-Page Profiles. This ensures a high expectation for all whilst providing additional support and scaffolding where required.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Inspiring Music provide peripatetic teachers for students to learn instruments in 1:1 or small group lessons, covering a range of string, woodwind, brass and keyboard instruments, as well as running larger ensembles for woodwind and brass. They also run weekend music centres that students can attend if they play an instrument. Pupils are able to borrow instruments for the majority of their 1:1 instrumental lessons when they first begin learning in order to make learning an instrument more accessible.

There are also a wide variety of extra-curricular music clubs run by the music teachers including choir, orchestra, school musical production, music technology and instrumental/band clubs. Year 8 Music Leaders also contribute to these clubs and often add in their own throughout the year. Many of these groups have the opportunity to perform in concerts and church services held during the school year.

Part C: Musical experiences.

Other musical experiences that pupils have the opportunity to take part in include the church services held at Christmas and Easter. These involve the whole school singing hymns as part of the services alongside the showcasing of some of the other musical clubs' progress throughout the term/year.

There is an annual concert at Christmastime that allows those taking part in music clubs to showcase what they have been working on outside of their lessons to close family and friends.

These experiences also allow us to maintain a good relationship with local lower schools as they are invited to matinee performances of our Christmas concert and summer school production.

All year groups are also welcome to audition for our school production, experiencing how shows are put together onstage as well as backstage with prop-making, backstage scene changes, lighting and sound. There is no cost for participation aside from some elements of costuming.

In Year 8, pupils can apply to be Music Leaders where they gain experience in supporting the running of clubs as well as offering support in music lessons lower down in the school.

In the future

Extra-curricular clubs will continue to be rotated on a termly basis to support wider opportunities and ideas from students as to which clubs they would like to see.

Reviewing the new National Curriculum when that is released to ensure curriculum remains up to date and enhance engagement with local lower schools. While historical outreach efforts have yielded low response rates, establishing a cohesive connection between lower and middle school music provisions will be even more important.

Further information (optional)

<https://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/> Bedfordshire Music Hub