

Music development plan summary: King Edward Vi Sheldon Heath Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	April 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	December 2026
Name of the school music lead	Andrew Jennings
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Brenda Collister
Name of local music hub	Services for Education
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

King Edward Vi Sheldon Heath Academy is a large secondary school in Birmingham, with 1043 students across KS3 & 4 and a sixth form of 145 students. It has 27.3%% of pupils with English as an additional language, 18.25% of pupils with SEND, and 55.7% of pupils with eligibility for Pupil Premium and is Quintile 5 on the school deprivation indicator.

What they do

Music is a one-person department with 6 visiting instrumental teachers.

In year 7 & 8 Music is taught on a half yearly rotation with Performing Arts in mixed ability groups. Students receive 1 lesson per week for 1.5 terms then rotate to Performing arts. During Year 9 Music is taught 1 hour per fortnight, again in mixed ability groups. This gives students 18 hours of music tuition per year. At KS4 students receive 3 lesson per fortnight throughout the year.

Curriculum

The curriculum is linked to the national curriculum with work within units of work linked to performance, composition and listening, in order to develop the skills and confidence of the students. Work is on-going to make better links to the Model Music curriculum. Students have the opportunity to access and develop skills in keyboard, ukulele playing, singing and music technology during their time in key stage 3. Units of work include Keyboard Skills, Ukulele Skills, EDM, Blues, Minimalism.

All student that engage in instrumental/vocal lessons have the opportunity to take grade examinations from the following exam boards ABRSM, Trinity Guildhall and RSL. At key stage 4 students follow the EDUQAS GCSE Music specification.

All learning journeys and medium-term plans are on-line and available for all parents via the Academy website. <https://sites.google.com/view/kesh-curriculum-2023-24/subjects/music>

The department has links with the OHMI trust who have supplied an adapted instrument for a student who is wheelchair bound to enable them to take up the Trombone. Within the department height adjustable keyboards stands are used to enable easy wheel chair access.

Co- Curricular

All pupils have the opportunity to learn an instrument via 100% subsidised one-to-one/ group lessons throughout the school day. 12% of the pupil cohort attend weekly, instrumental one-to-one/group lessons, these lessons are timetabled during the school day to enable pupils to attend. Of these students 55% are pupil premium, 19% SEND, 9% EAL & 2% LAC. These lessons are provided through the link with the local music Hub – Services for Education, who provide instrumental lessons in Brass, Woodwind, Violin, Piano, Dhol drumming and DJing. There are also two private teachers that provide tuition in Voice and drum kit.

Extra-curricular clubs that students can be involved in include:

Academy Band – Open to all students who can play five notes or more on any instrument

Academy Choir – Open to all students.

Sheldon Sounds Choir – Auditioned Choir

Musical Experiences

Of equal importance are musical events which are run throughout the year, including termly concerts, Academy show, Awards Evenings and opportunities for students to perform in assemblies, which are open to all students that have instrumental/vocal lessons in or outside of the Academy and involve students from years 7 – 13. Students also have the opportunity to attend the events as audience members supporting their peers. The music department seeks out discounted tickets for concerts at the world-renowned Symphony Hall and aims for all pupils in Year 7 experience a live concert at Symphony Hall given by the CBSO as part of an initiative from Services for Education.

The Academy through their links with Services for Education School band and choir have opportunities during the year to perform at events organised by SFE at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, CBSO Centre and Symphony Hall Birmingham, as well as termly performance opportunities within the Academy as part of specific concerts or as part of other events.

How this is achieved

The music department is made up of one full-time Head of department, 6 part-time visiting peripatetic instrumental and vocal teachers, the Head of music also teaches keyboard lessons to students. The music department has one well-equipped teaching room, a recording studio, capable of up to 16 track recording, 3 practice rooms equipped with a piano, a dedicated drum room equipped with two drum kits and a student instrument storeroom. The music classroom is equipped with 28 keyboards and a teaching piano, a large screen display. The department has 30 laptop computers that all run Cubase 14, with 15 that also have Dorico 14 notation software installed. Further teaching resources include class sets of Ukulele's and Djembe, 15 guitars, amplifiers, two drumkits, a samba set, a set of steel pans, a portable PA. The department uses an online platform called Focus on Sound for setting home that links and supports the MTP's and elements outlined in the Model Music Curriculum.

In the future

- Develop stronger musical links with Primary Feeder Schools to develop outreach and workshop opportunities.
- Increase curriculum time at KS3
- Continue to develop uptake at KS4 & introduce music at KS5
- Make better links to the Model music Curriculum through the introduction of whole class instrumental teaching and developing a class band structure.
- Redevelop the main music room to create a bigger performance space.

Further Information

Services for Education run a number of central Ensembles that are available to students. These are joined through audition and information can be obtained from the visiting instrumental teachers or the Head of Music. <https://www.servicesforeducation.co.uk/>

There is also a local Youth Brass Band based in Coleshill, which students are able to join. <https://coleshilltownband.org/>

Stagecoach Solihull which is a musical theatre group. <https://www.stagecoach.co.uk>