Why study Music?

Music department

A music department is a safe space for creativity, collaboration and growth. We will provide all students with opportunities that help expand and grow the mind, building on valuable life experiences. In the music department at Alperton Community School we aim to provide an outstanding curriculum within a supportive, stimulating and creative learning environment that will allow all students to be creative and develop their self expression, developing a culture where music education and advocacy is valued.

Our aim is that our curriculum will:

• Enable every student to meet or exceed their expectations and make excellent progress

• Enable every student to reach their full academic, personal, creative and musical potential and instil a passion for learning

• Enable every student to meet or exceed their own perceptions and achieve the best possible musical results

• Embrace all cultures, beliefs and musical traditions

• Nurture every student to become a successful adult who will impact positively on their local community and society as a whole.

• Introduce students to a wide range of music styles and genres from across the world and throughout history using ensemble and solo performance opportunities and creative composition development.

• Provide the opportunity for students to take part in extracurricular activities including clubs, individual instrumental lessons, productions, performance evenings and trips/workshops.

• Develop students' understanding of careers in the arts and how skills can be transferred to support future opportunities.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students is explored through exposure to a world of music both familiar and unfamiliar. British Values are supported through ensemble activities where students share ideas, make independent creative decisions and practice mutual respect and tolerance through collaborative activities. We aim to build on the work of primary schools to provide continuity in education for our Year 7 students.

We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum by exploring a range of instruments, the voice, composition methods, music theory from grade 1 to grade 3 and exposing our students to musical

genres from classical to Caribbean. We also introduce students to creating music using specialist Music technology software such as DJing, digital audio workstations and studio production and recording methods in order to reflect the variety of ways that Music is created and performed today. Students are introduced to the key skills needed to succeed in Music: performing, composing, listening and appraising. Students are taught a broad and balanced curriculum exploring a range of instruments and musical genres and mediums including Western music, Blues, Caribbean and film Music.

The curriculum is further supported by providing the exciting opportunity for students to receive one to one instrumental tuition with a private teacher, instruments include piano, guitar, drums and vocals. We offer extended learning activities to enhance student's curriculum experience including choir, violin club, composition club, guitar club as well as open sessions during the lunch break. Students have the opportunity to share their progress at a number of school events from performing in weekly assemblies to the summer term concert, school production and talent show.

Music development plan summary:
Alperton Community School Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Miss Stephanie Ernestine
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Candise Lazare
Name of local music hub	Brent Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

Vision Statement

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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.

Music Education Overview

Our Music curriculum offers a comprehensive and inclusive program that aligns with the National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). It is designed to engage students across Key Stages 3 and 4 (KS3 and KS4), fostering their musical abilities while providing opportunities for creativity, collaboration, and performance.

Teaching Time Allocation

KS3: All students receive 2 hours of Music education over two weeks.

KS4 (Year 10): Students receive 5 hours of Music education over two weeks.

KS4 (Year 11): Students receive 6 hours of Music education over two weeks.

Each lesson lasts 1 hour and focuses on developing three core areas: music theory, music performance, and music composition.

National Curriculum Goals

Our curriculum adheres to the National Curriculum's aims to ensure all pupils:

Perform, listen to, review, and evaluate music across diverse historical periods, genres, styles, and traditions, including works by renowned composers and musicians.

Learn to sing, use their voices, and create and compose music individually and collaboratively. Students also have opportunities to learn musical instruments, use technology creatively, and progress to advanced levels of musical excellence.

Understand and explore music creation, production, and communication through the interrelated dimensions of music: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, and musical notation.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

The Music curriculum is designed to be accessible to all students, regardless of starting point, SEND, or ability. Personalised learning strategies are developed with the support of the SEN department, and all materials, including booklets and instruments, are adapted to meet individual needs. This ensures every student can achieve the lesson objectives outlined in the Medium Term Plans.

KS3 Curriculum Highlights

Across KS3, students build foundational musical skills through:

Pitch and Rhythm: Reading notation up to Grade 3.

World Music: Exploring genres such as African drumming, Blues, and Reggae.

Instrumental Skills: Developing proficiency on an instrument of their choice.

Expression and Composition: Using technology for creative projects.

Year-specific activities include:

Year 7: Whole-class string instrument lessons, film music studies, and introductory instrumental skills on keyboards, Djembes, Samba drums, violins, and guitars.

Year 8: Steel pan performances, ensemble playing, and opportunities to select and learn an instrument such as drum kit, violin, DJing, acoustic/electric guitar, bass guitar, trumpet, keyboard/piano, recorder, or marimba.

Year 9: Music technology and advancing instrumental skills.

Students in years 8 and 9 work towards group performances, culminating in class ensembles or bands of 4.

KS4 Curriculum

At KS4, we deliver the Music GCSE program. Please refer to the school website for further details.

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.

Extracurricular Music Opportunities

Our Music Department provides a wide range of opportunities for students to sing, play instruments, and deepen their musical skills beyond the core curriculum. These programs are designed to inspire creativity, foster collaboration, and support students' individual musical journeys.

Instrumental Lessons

All students can enrol in one-to-one instrumental lessons to develop their skills in:

Drum kit

Acoustic Guitar

Electric Guitar

Bass Guitar

Piano

The school offers financial support for Pupil Premium and KS4 students, ensuring access to these lessons at a reduced fee.

Ensembles and Clubs

Students can join a variety of ensembles and clubs held throughout the week, including:

Violin Club

Guitar Club

Trumpet Club

Choir

School Band

Vocal Group

School Productions

Music Performances for assemblies and special school events

These groups provide opportunities for students to perform, collaborate, and develop their musical talents in a supportive and engaging environment.

Lunchtime and After-School Music Sessions

Lunchtime Free Time: Twice a week, students can visit the Music Department during lunch to experiment with instruments and create music with their peers.

After-School Access: The department is open four days a week after school, allowing students additional time for practice, composing, or group music-making.

Instrument Loans and Purchasing

To ensure every student has access to the tools they need, the department:

Provides instruments on loan for students who may not have their own.

Offers assistance in sourcing instruments for purchase at a reduced price.

Facilities

The Music Department boasts five dedicated practice rooms tailored to different musical needs:

DJ Room

Vocal Room

Band Room

Percussion Room

Studio and Guitar Room

Marimba room

Each space is equipped to support a range of musical activities, whether students are practicing solo, performing as a group, or exploring music production.

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.

Musical Events and Opportunities

Our Music Department offers a vibrant calendar of events, performances, and trips, providing students with rich opportunities to showcase their talents, gain performance experience, and be inspired by professional musicians.

Annual Music Events

Each year, we host three major music events that celebrate student talent across a wide range of instruments, styles, and skill levels:

Talent Show

Music Show or School Musical

Performing Arts Evening

These events include solo performances, duets, bands, and ensemble acts, with a variety of abilities represented. Students audition and are selected to perform, ensuring an inclusive and supportive platform for all.

Assembly Performances

Year Group Assemblies: Performances are scheduled three days a week, giving students regular opportunities to perform in front of their peers.

Special Assemblies: Students also perform at key school events, such as end-of-term celebration assemblies, fostering confidence and pride in their musical achievements.

Trips and External Opportunities

We organize regular trips to expose students to professional musical experiences and workshops. Destinations include:

Southbank Centre

The Royal Albert Hall

Choir workshops and other engaging musical activities.

All trips are fully funded by the department to ensure accessibility for every student. Additionally, we collaborate with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, which offers reduced-fee student tickets, allowing us to include more students in these enriching experiences.

In the future

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

Future Plans for the Music Department

The Alperton Community School Music Department is committed to expanding opportunities and fostering a vibrant musical community in the coming years. Our key goals include:

A-Level Music Program

We aim to introduce an A-Level Music cohort in the near future, providing a pathway for students to further their musical studies and prepare for higher education or professional careers in music.

Developing an Orchestral Group

The department is gradually building a small orchestral group, starting with students currently learning the trumpet and violin. Our vision is to expand these groups into full sections and gradually incorporate woodwind and percussion instruments, creating a well-rounded school orchestra.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to nurturing musical talent and broadening the scope of music education at Alperton Community School.

Further information

Assessment in Music

Our approach to assessment in Music is holistic, focusing on the four key domains of Performance, Composing, Appraising, and Music Theory. Instead of relying on a single final assessment to determine a grade, we use cumulative assessments across these domains to provide a comprehensive picture of each student's progress.

Student Engagement and Tracking

Assessments are recorded and made accessible in student booklets, enabling students to:

Track their own progress over time.

Set personal targets to guide their development in each area.

This method encourages reflective learning, helping students take ownership of their musical journey while ensuring they grow in all aspects of their musical education.