

Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Natalie Minty
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Natalie Minty
Name of local music hub	Warwickshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

At Nicholas Chamberlaine School, we are committed to fostering a love for music and inspiring our students through the MiSST curriculum at KS3, alongside opportunities for personal expression and creativity in KS4 and beyond.

KS3 Curriculum:

All KS3 students follow the MiSST (Music in Secondary Schools Trust) curriculum, a transformational programme that ensures every child has access to high-quality music education, regardless of background. Through MiSST, every student receives weekly instrumental tuition for three years, learning a string or brass instrument. This is complemented by dedicated music lessons with specialist music teachers and separate music theory lessons to deepen their understanding of musical concepts.

Key features of the MiSST curriculum at NCS include:

- **Instrumental Performance:** Students receive structured, weekly tuition on their chosen instrument, with opportunities for individual practice and group ensemble work.
- **Musical Theory:** Lessons focus on developing a strong foundation in notation, rhythm, scales, and harmonic structures, ensuring students can read and write music confidently.
- **Vocal Performance:** Students participate in ensemble singing to build teamwork and enhance their musical ear.
- **Cultural and Historical Context:** Exploring genres, periods, and movements, including the role of music in social and political contexts.
- **Composition:** Opportunities to create original works and arrangements, building creativity and technical skills.

The curriculum is inclusive and tailored to individual needs, ensuring every student can participate fully. Inclusive provision includes adapted instruments, private practice rooms, and 1:1 support for students requiring additional help.

KS4 Curriculum (OCR GCSE Music):

At KS4, students opt to continue their music education through the OCR GCSE Music curriculum. The course is divided into three components:

1. **Performance (30%)** - Students perform music on an instrument or with their voice as a soloist or as part of an ensemble.
2. **Composition (30%)** - Students compose their own music, developing their creativity and understanding of musical elements.
3. **Listening and Appraising (40%)** - Students develop the ability to evaluate and analyse music, with a focus on a range of musical genres, contexts, and styles.

Music Development Plan

Students develop advanced skills in:

- Live performance and instrumental proficiency.
- Music composition, including a range of compositional techniques.
- Musical analysis, including appraising set works and exploring musical elements such as melody, harmony, texture, and rhythm.
- Collaborative and independent project work, tailored to audience needs.
- Developing confidence as soloists, composers, and ensemble musicians.
- Use of tools including BandLab to create and edit compositions, connecting traditional and modern music-making.

Assessment:

At KS3, students are assessed against age-related expectations through formative teacher assessments and termly summative evaluations in both theory and practical aspects. This supports progression into KS4 pathways.

At KS4, students are assessed based on the three OCR GCSE Music components, with regular formative assessments to inform teaching and provide detailed feedback to students and families.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Clubs and Activities:

NCS offers a rich program of extra-curricular music opportunities, including:

- Weekly instrumental practice (keyboard, guitar, drums, and ukulele).
- Peripatetic lessons for all KS3 students.
- Choir and vocal ensemble opportunities.
- 1:1 or small group peripatetic lessons for piano, strings, and percussion for GCSE students.
- MiSST residential opportunities.

Performance Opportunities:

Students are encouraged to showcase their talents at:

- Seasonal concerts and showcases.
- Assemblies, school and community events.
- Trust-wide collaborative performances.

Local and regional music festivals and at prestigious national venues e.g. Royal Albert Hall, London theatres

Part C: Musical experiences

NCS prioritises meaningful musical experiences to enhance student engagement. Key opportunities include:

- Collaborations with the Warwickshire Music Service to access workshops and events.
- Collaboration with performing arts to provide music in the yearly school production.
- School-based events showcasing student compositions and performances.
- A residential opportunity to meet and play with students from other schools participating in the MiSST programme.
- Trips to musical theatre productions and concerts.

In the future

Future Aspirations:

- NCS Orchestra and Choir: Establishing a school orchestra and choir to embed collaborative performance into the school culture.
- Subsidised Instrumental Tuition: Expanding opportunities for students to learn new instruments with financial support for disadvantaged families.
- Community Engagement: Increasing involvement in local and regional music events to celebrate student achievements.
- Key Stage 5: A VI Form offering of A Level Music.