



King's Academy Binfield

National Plan for Music Education Summary

2026-2027

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Contents

Overview.....	3
Part A: Curriculum Music.....	3
Curriculum Overview.....	4
Key Stage 4: Year 10 & Year 11.....	5
Key Stage 5: Year 12 and 13.....	5
Time allocated.....	5
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities.....	5
Part B: Extra-curricular Music.....	6
Extra-curricular Music.....	6
Peripatetic Offer.....	7
Charging and Remissions Information.....	7
Application and Support.....	7
Part C: Musical Experiences.....	8
Part D: In the Future.....	10

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	20/04/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	Summer Term 2027
Name of the school music lead	Lianne Roberts
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jo Davis
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	King's Group Academies

Part A: Curriculum Music

This section addresses the content taught during lesson time, the duration dedicated to music lessons, and the music qualifications or awards that pupils can attain. An overview of the music curriculum for each year group is available on the King's Academy, Binfield school website.

Throughout Key Stage 3, students have 50 minutes of Music provision a week. The Key Stage 3 curriculum has been designed with a focus on developing instrumental skills on keyboard, ukulele and DAW BandLab as well as embedding key terminology which gradually deepens throughout years 7-9. The music curriculum has been designed to incorporate the key considerations of the National Curriculum, considers elements from the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) and the Eduqas GCSE Music Specification in order to allow students to be able to progress confidently to GCSE Music. These elements are integrated into our teaching framework, with adaptations to suit our learners and our specific educational setting.

Within the music curriculum, instrumental development - encompassing both solo and ensemble playing, exploring the elements of music and composition skills are intricately woven throughout. The curriculum is designed with a focus on sequencing these skills to ensure a cohesive and progressive learning experience. Students learn to play the keyboard beginning with an introduction to keyboard playing in year 7 and progressing to advanced keyboard playing in year 8. In year 9, students use their keyboard skills in units of work such as Blues and Band Skills. In addition to the keyboard, students all develop skills on the ukulele which can progress to guitar in year 9. There are numerous opportunities for whole class and smaller group ensemble performances throughout all units of work fostering the development of independence, problem solving and communication; all of which are essential transferable skills. Music technology features across Key Stage 3 allowing students the opportunity to create music on a variety of platforms and to embed the use of technology for composing providing a further creative outlet. Composition tasks feature throughout the curriculum to allow students to apply their learning and demonstrate understanding of key concepts as well as developing their artistic expression.

Curriculum Overview

Unit 1: Elements of music through performance	Unit 2: I Got Rhythm	Unit 3: Keyboard skills – Introduction to note reading	Unit 4: Exploring Instruments of the Orchestra	Unit 5: Introduction to band skills - Ukulele	Unit 6: Introduction to Music Technology
Students will describe how elements of music are used when listening to and appraising a wide range of music. They consider how these elements are applied in performance work.	Students will explore rhythm and pulse practically to develop knowledge and understanding of how these two elements work together in music. They will explore these elements through performing, composing and appraising.	Students will learn basic keyboard skills such as the five finger position and the layout of the keyboard and be able to play simple pieces. They will know basic keyboard technique including 5-finger position and be able to perform a range of pieces reading some of the notes of the treble clef.	Students will learn about the different families of instruments and the role they play within an orchestra. They will work as a whole class ensemble to learn and perform a piece of music as an orchestra would.	Students will learn and understand the layout of the instrument. They will develop understanding of a chord and the difference between major and minor chords in music.	Students will learn how to use DAW to remix. They will develop an understanding of remix and use their understanding of the elements of music to create their own remix.

YEAR 8

Unit 1: Exploring rhythm and pulse through Samba	Unit 2: Advanced Keyboard - simple chords and melodies	Unit 3: All About that Bass	Unit 4: Off-beat – Exploring Reggae	Unit 5: Music Technology focus – music for video games
Students will explore a variety of different rhythms and understand their importance in Samba music and be able to play simple and more complex rhythms in a group.	Students will explore performance pieces requiring extended hand position and inclusion of the left hand playing simple chords with accuracy and fluency. They will be able to identify notes of the treble clef with confidence.	Students will continue to develop their keyboard skills with a focus on the role of the left hand. Students will learn how to read bass clef and will learn the importance of the bass in a piece of music. They will understand how to compose a simple bass riff using the notes of the chords.	Students will explore and identify the different textural layers in Reggae music including bass riffs, chords and melodic hooks. They will take part in a Reggae performance showing a clear sense of style.	Students will describe basic points within a game when music is used. They will create a basic character motif with some awareness in the sense of style. They will create and present an original piece of computer or video game music containing some basic sound effects and a character motif.

YEAR 9

Unit 1: Blues Music	Unit 2: Minimalism	Unit 3: Advanced Film Music and composition	Unit 4: Introduction to songwriting	Unit 5: Band skills - advanced performance
Students will recognise Blues music as distinct from other genres/styles of music and identify some features of Blues. They will perform a bass line using the single notes of C, F & G to the 12-Bar Blues chord sequence. They will improvise using some of the notes of the blues scale. They will perform either the bass line or chords and improvise using the notes of the blues scale in a group performance.	Students will understand basic features of minimalist techniques such as repetition. They will perform and compose a basic ostinato motif and adjust to create a new pattern. They will aurally identify and understand basic minimalist techniques such as repetition and looping and recognise certain sounds as electronic/synthesised.	Students will know and understand some of the purposes of film music and understand how theme songs lead to the popularity of films and film music. They will aurally identify a range of different types of film music to match a suitable film genre. They will use storyboards and/or cue sheets to plan a film music soundtrack and be able to apply simple composition techniques to create an atmosphere / emotion.	Students will identify different musical features in different arrangements of a popular song. They will understand the importance of form and structure and the typical chord progression used in a Popular Song. They will compose as part of a group, part of a popular song such as a chorus with some sense as to how the different textural layers fit together and apply the four chord structure.	Students will demonstrate secure ensemble and rehearsal skills. They will work cooperatively as part of a group and make decisions related to the dimensions of the music to enhance the overall performance. Students will show competent skills on their chosen instrument and will perform with a sense of style and good accuracy and fluency.

Key Stage 4: Year 10 & Year 11

The Eduqas music GCSE course encourages an integrated approach to the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising through four interrelated areas of study.

The four areas of study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles in a wider context. The Western Classical Tradition forms the basis of Musical Forms and Devices (area of study 1), and learners should take the opportunity to explore these forms and devices further in the other three areas of study. Music for Ensemble (area of study 2) allows learners to look more closely at texture and sonority. Film Music (area of study 3) and Popular Music (area of study 4) provide an opportunity to look at contrasting styles and genres of music.

Key Stage 5: Year 12 and 13

King's Academy, Binfield offers students the opportunity to study BTEC Performing Arts Extended Certificate, giving students an insight into Performing Arts and a firm grounding to be able to study Performing Arts at a higher level. Level 3 Performing Arts is for students who are interested in learning about the performing arts sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, including but not exclusively in performing arts. This qualification gives a broad introduction to the performing arts sector with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills which are transferable across other sectors (including communication, presentation, physical and creative skills).

A-Level Eduqas Music is also part of the Sixth Form subject offer in order to allow students to develop their musical skills of performing, composing and musical appreciation in a different context. The Eduqas A level music course specification is designed to allow learners to pursue their own musical interests. The Eduqas specification is designed to offer contrast and breadth as well as depth of study. Learners will engage with both classical and popular music throughout the course.

Being a part of the King's Academy Group allows us to work with Music Department's across the Trust to ensure our Curriculum is up to date, broad, balanced, robust and engaging for all.

Time allocated

We follow a two-week timetable with 50-minute lessons, and so the time allocated for each subject is **per fortnight**.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
2 x 50 minutes	2 x 50 minutes	2 x 50 minutes	5 x 50 minutes	5 x 50 minutes

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

King's Academy, Binfield is committed to inclusion and equity both of which are integral to the curriculum. It is imperative that every student has access to the music curriculum and attains successful outcomes. However, it is recognised that certain students may require additional, often temporary, scaffolding to reach these outcomes. [Tom Sherrington's](#) SEND: Aim High, Planned Support document outlines specific strategies to use in the classroom to ensure that any barriers to learning are overcome; this is a whole school approach and as well as a music specific focus.

Part B: Extra-curricular Music

This section addresses the opportunity pupils at King's Academy, Binfield have to sing and play music outside of lesson time. Students have access to a number of opportunities to make, create, perform and play music, this is through a variety of ensemble or instrumental groups, as well as extra-curricular clubs that allow students to make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Extra-curricular Music

King's Academy, Binfield offer a range of extra-curricular clubs that are offered free of charge which are open to all students across all year groups. Rehearsals and clubs take place in specialist music areas such as the music department, the peripatetic instrumental rooms, or the main hall where appropriate.

- **Glee Club**

Glee Club is a school-wide singing group open to students from all year groups. The repertoire includes songs and genres selected by the students in order to build up repertoire. Songs are then selected and rehearsed with the addition of vocal harmonies. Additionally, the group offers numerous opportunities for solo performances, allowing students to showcase their individual talents within the ensemble. This inclusive group fosters a collaborative environment where students can develop their vocal skills and experience the joy of collective music-making.

- **King's Academy Band**

King's Academy Band is a new ensemble that integrates traditional orchestral instruments with rock and pop instruments. Students perform using written notation, tablature, or chords, preparing for performances at various school and community events. This diverse group provides a platform for students to develop their musical skills in a collaborative setting, blending different musical styles and techniques. This group is open to all year groups.

- **Pop / Rock Bands**

Students have the opportunity to form their own bands with peers, supported by dedicated teacher guidance. Practice room space is made available to facilitate the development of their ensemble, instrumental, and vocal skills. This structured environment encourages students to refine their musical abilities and collaborate effectively, preparing them for performances and further musical pursuits. This group is open to all year groups.

- **Tour Choir**

Our international Performing Arts Tour provides the opportunity for students from all years to come together and develop their singing skills in preparation for our bi-annual tour. This tends to be a slightly different group of students to those who attend Glee Club as any student going on the Performing Arts tour has to be part of the tour choir. This provides an excellent opportunity for students to perform as a whole group and to develop their singing skills. Students also have the opportunity to perform solos / duets in all of the repertoire.

- **Whole School Musical Ensemble**

Our bi-annual whole school musical provides students from across the school to take part either as a lead role or ensemble member. Students from all year groups are able to experience what it is like to be in a whole school production from the audition process, rehearsals and final performances. Students have the opportunity to perform four times in front of four different audiences. This provides students with many transferable skills

such as resilience, commitment and confidence.

Peripatetic Offer

Peripatetic music lessons are delivered by specialist instrumental teachers from Berkshire Music Trust and are designed to enhance students' musical education through individualised or small group tuition. This offer provides opportunities for students to receive tuition in a variety of instruments, fostering a diverse and enriching learning environment.

Instrument Choices

- **Piano and Keyboard:** Students can learn classical and contemporary styles, focusing on technique, reading music, and performance skills.
- **Guitar:** Acoustic, electric or bass guitar lessons are available, covering a wide range of genres from classical to rock.
- **Woodwind:** Clarinet, flute and saxophone lessons focus on embouchure, breath control and ensemble playing.
- **Brass:** Trumpet, trombone, and tenor horn instruction focuses on embouchure, breath control, and ensemble playing.
- **Percussion:** Drum kit lessons cover rhythm, coordination, and reading percussion notation.
- **Voice:** Vocal lessons are tailored to individual student needs, including classical, pop, and musical theatre techniques.

Charging and Remissions Information

Please see [Berkshire Music Trust Fees](#) for information on the lesson types available and the cost of instrument hire.

Application and Support

To enrol your child for instrumental / vocal lessons at King's Academy, Binfield School with Berkshire Music Trust you will need to register and sign up online using the following web address which will take you directly to the Berkshire Music trust 'Lessons' page.

<https://berksmusictrust.org.uk/music/music-lessons/apply-for-lessons/>

You will need to select the 'Lessons in school' option and then follow the instructions in order to register for lessons in school at King's Academy, Binfield.

Learning to play a musical instrument is a fantastic way for young people to develop confidence, self-esteem and a life-long love of music. Berkshire Music Trust provides the provision for instrumental / singing lessons at King's Academy Binfield and offers the highest quality musical education delivering instrumental and singing lessons in schools across the county.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This section covers additional musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as concerts, shows, trips and events.

Within the academic year there are several additional musical opportunities that take place.

- **Winter Showcase**
 - King's Academies annual Winter Concert offers students the chance to perform before a public audience. In addition to our ensembles we encourage soloists, small group performances from all years. We also feature ensemble performances from our GCSE Music students. The Winter Showcase is a well attended event and is one of the main events of the Autumn term.

- **Summer Exhibition (CAPA Exhibition)**
 - During the CAPA Exhibition, students are invited to make musical contributions, performing pieces they have been diligently practising throughout the year. This event features a variety of ensemble and solo acts, allowing students to demonstrate their musical progress and creativity alongside the community. The exhibition atmosphere encourages participation and celebrates the diverse musical talents within the school along with the other Creative and Performing arts where we are able to showcase and celebrate the work over the academic year.

- **School Musical**
 - Our bi-annual whole school musical is now a greatly anticipated event in the school calendar. Students from every year group have the opportunity to audition for the school musical with all students who do audition being offered a role in some capacity. To date, we have performed We Will Rock you and The Addams Family.

- **Trips to Musicals and Performances**
 - Students have the chance to attend live musicals and music performances spanning a range of genres. These trips are designed to build cultural capital and enrich students' life experiences. By exposing students to professional performances, these outings aim to inspire and enthuse them, enhancing their appreciation for the performing arts and motivating them in their own musical pursuits.

- **International Trips**
 - Our bi-annual Performing Arts Trip provides students with the opportunity to experience the musical, artistic, and theatrical offerings of different countries. These trips are designed to broaden students' cultural perspectives and provide opportunities to perform in different settings and to different audiences. These trips serve to enrich students' artistic education and personal growth. These trips are charged as part of the additional curriculum offer.

- **Music Scholarship Programme**
 - September 2024 will see the launch of our Music Scholarship Programme. The programme is specifically designed to encourage students who have not had instrumental lessons previously the chance to learn to play an orchestral instrument (woodwind or brass) through Berkshire Music Trust with the first terms worth of lessons and instrument hire paid for by King's Academy, Binfield

and Wellington College. The aim of the Scholarship programme is to develop a core group of orchestral players in order to form a Windband at King's Academy, Binfield.

Part D: In the Future

This section identifies information of improvements King's Academy, Binfield plan to make for subsequent years in curriculum music, extra-curricular music and musical experiences, including when the changes will be introduced.

PART A - CURRICULUM MUSIC

Development Point	Implementation Strategy	Timeframe
Continue to revise and rewrite curriculum overview plans: consider sequencing of topics in KS3 to support retention at GCSE level	Consider assessment objectives for KS3 and relate these more to GCSE	Review for September 2026 This will be under constant review on a yearly basis
Incorporate more 'active listening' and aural development in lessons in order to allow students to use their vocabulary to describe music	Create a folder of listening activities that link to each unit of work and build on students' application of key terms.	Build these into each unit of work throughout the 2026-27 academic year.
Embedding singing through the curriculum	Consider how singing can fit into current units of work or include a specific unit of work focusing on singing.	Begin with the year 7 cohort in September 2026 and embed in each unit of work throughout the year.

PART B - EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC

Development Point	Implementation Strategy	Timeframe
Increase numbers in the School Band through Scholarship programme	Offer scholarship scheme to 10 students in September 2024. Review this for the following year with the aim of creating a culture of orchestral instrumental learning	3 year scheme
Make links with Berkshire Music Trust clearer	Focused area on school website for Berkshire Music Trust information and timetables to be placed	Implement in academic year 2026-2027