

## Wellsway School

### Music development plan

#### Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Ingrid McLean
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Stu Hill
Name of local music hub	WEMA (West of England Music Alliance)

#### 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.

We want every student at Wellsway to develop a musical identity which is personal to them. This may be in the form of a performer, composer and/or as an active listener who, in the future, will become a participator in the cultural life of the UK. Alongside this, we want all students to feel able to take GCSE Music, and possibly A-Level, should they wish to and therefore, as a department, our aim is to provide a stimulating holistic curriculum which covers a variety of skills, musical cultures and knowledge which will support their musical journey. In short, music is the dominant language of the classroom. Every genre studied will be approached in a practical manner, through either performance or composition.

Working alongside their teacher and peers, students will develop their musical analysis, and aural skills, learning how to describe, and aurally identify, harmony, tonality, structure, melody, rhythm, sonority and texture. Students will have the opportunity to perform and compose on instruments of their choice including keyboard, guitar, ukulele and bass guitar, or their own orchestral instrument. There will be opportunities for singing in every year and we actively encourage all students to attend our open access choir. All students studying Music have access to a cloud-based composition digital audio workstation which allows them to develop their IT skills alongside their musicianship. We hope that many students access this not only in lesson time, but also at home. We strive to ensure all students find Music an engaging, exciting subject in which they embrace the discipline of practice, the challenge of analysis and the excitement of creating and finding their own musical voice. Alongside this we encourage all students to develop their musicianship in a variety of extra-curricular activities both in and outside school.

Year 7 and 9 have two hours of Music a fortnight, Year 8 have three hours a fortnight. At KS4, we run AQA GCSE Music and students have five hours a fortnight (12% of students in each year group currently study GCSE, well above the national average of 5%). We run A-Level Music have 4 students in Year 12 and 13 combined. Students have 8 hours a fortnight of Music at KS5.

**Resources:** We have two sets of classroom ukuleles, 15 guitars, 15 keyboards, 27 PCs, a 760 licence for Soundtrap (composing; a 5 year licence from Nov 2023) and Focus on Sound for KS4 and KS5 (listening), Flat.io (notation package) plus Cubase for A-Level students. We also have a samba kit and a selection of percussion instruments, including marimba, xylophone and glockenspiel. We also have an annual licence for Sing Up.

**Curriculum** Please see KS3 and KS4 Curriculum plan for further details, and detailed SoL. We constantly review our curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of our students.

## 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.

**Visiting music teachers:** We have 9 visiting instrumental and singing teachers teaching over 100 students a week. WEMA (West of England Music Alliance) provide us with instrumental teachers, and directly invoice parents. Students are able to sign up for instrumental or singing lessons at any time of the school year and are added to the timetable as soon as the teacher is able to find time. This has proven effective in capturing students' enthusiasm. Current instruments being learnt: violin, flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, cornet, trombone, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, piano (including advance piano for Grade 6+), drum kit and singing. Here is the link if you wish to sign up your child for lessons. <https://wema.org.uk/young-people-and-families/learn-to-play-a-musical-instrument/> We work in partnership with WEMA to ensure students are aware of additional musical activities taking part outside school such as Cantilena, the county choir, and Saturday Music Club in Bath. Some of our students take part in Bristol Beacon clubs.

**Pupil Premium student engagement:** All PP students are entitled to free instrumental lessons. We inform all PP students that they are entitled to free lessons and encourage those we believe have exhibited musical potential in lessons by also contacting parents. We believe that every child is entitled to this special experience, whether they are perceived as 'musical' or not. We purchase music for the students, provide instruments and pay exam for any instrumental or singing exam they take. We also encourage all PP students to participate in an extra-curricular club.

### Clubs and ensembles

We adapt our offer throughout the year to ensure we appeal to a range of musical interests in school. For 2024-2025 the offer will include:

- School orchestra (8am Wednesdays);
- Chamber Choir (6<sup>th</sup> form only) time to be confirmed.
- Whole school choir (8am Friday)
- Jazz Band (after school Wednesdays, beginner instrumentalists)
- Soul and Funk Band (after school Wednesdays, student led)
- Folk Club (Thursday lunchtimes)
- Brass Band (Friday lunchtime)
- Year 7 Music Makers, a creative orchestra (Friday lunchtime)
- Use of practice rooms after school, Tuesday-Friday. A number of bands rehearse at these times.
- Year 6 Transition Choir in June of each academic year
- Community Choir. This choir is open to members of the public for free. This choir will run at certain times during the year in the run up to our Community Concert.

### 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.

Every year we aim to ensure there are termly performance opportunities.

**Performance opportunities:** Each year we aim to have one performance opportunity per term. 2024-2025.

- Daily performances in assembly by individual students and small ensembles.
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October – KS4 Tea-Time Concert, Mendip Hall 4pm-5pm  
Residents from St Monica's invited.
- Christmas Concert – 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024, this concert will take place over two nights.
- Primary School Performance – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (primaries come to Wells-way)
- Carol Singing at St Monica's Residential Home – 30 students, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024
- Piano Concert featuring - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025, St Monica's.
- Community Choral Event – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 St John's Church, Keynsham.
- Open Mic Night – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025, 6pm – 8pm. open to all years, any ensemble or soloist. Student led. Mendip Hall.
- KS3 instrumental concert – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025, Mendip Hall

- Summer Music Festival, outdoor prom concert – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

## In the future

Like many schools across the country, we would like to see more children learning an orchestral instrument. In partnership with WEMA, this is something we hope to develop over the next few years. In September 2025 Year 7 Music Makers club will allow students to have a go on a variety of orchestral instruments in the hoping of sparking an interest and excitement.

We have superb music resources at Wellsway School and at our summer concert, successfully raised enough money to purchase a mixing desk for our new recording studio which we hope will be in action by October 2024.

We would also like to develop singing further in the school by introducing whole year singing assembly for Year 7. We have also planned to create a boys choir, led by a male singing specialist, and have a special choral event in March to encourage further participation. In addition to this we hope to bring more singing to the community with a community choir.

Finally, we hope to increase PP participation in extra-curricular events.

## Further information (optional)

We love to take our students to live music. In 2023-2024 we took 50 students to see Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform 'Film Music Classics' at Bristol Beacon and we took 30 students to see Welsh National Opera at Bristol Hippodrome.

We organise these concerts once venues publish their programmes. We anticipate organising another two concerts this academic year.

We truly believe in the importance of collaboration. For example in 2023-2024 we took part in the Futura Singing Festival, and we ran a project with Bath Philharmonia which thirty Year 8 and 7 students from Wellsway and SBL school performed alongside the orchestra and international soloist Seckou Keita at Bath Forum. We also took a group of students to a day of intergenerational singing with the charity 'Golden Oldies' in Bath Pavilion.

At the time of writing, we are yet to confirm who we will be collaborating with this year – often opportunities arise once the academic year starts. We believe in ensuring we have exciting opportunities which will spark enthusiasm and develop our students' musicianship. We anticipate an exciting choral event in March 2025 which will give students a chance to explore a range of beautiful choral repertoire. Every single student at Wellsway will be invited to participate.

We are very proud that we employ WEMA for Music Therapy sessions. Our music therapist joins us for one day a week and supports some of our most vulnerable students. Students are referred to this therapy by the Inclusion Team.

We have an excellent relationship with Wellsway PTA who support our Music Department by purchasing our annual membership of Sing Up. They also sell refreshments at our concerts which helps fund this subscription.

We have a mailing list of parents whose children are actively involved in the Music Department. There are currently 139 parents/carer on this list. A weekly newsletter is sent out, or when it is required, informing parents of rehearsals, concert dates and any special events we are running. Please contact [imclean@wellswayschool.com](mailto:imclean@wellswayschool.com) if you would like to be added to this newsletter. We also put news in the school newsletter, including class performances.