Music Curriculum Intent

Year 7 Music Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Intent

At Iceni Academy, the Music curriculum inspires students to develop a lifelong appreciation of music through performing, composing and listening. Students explore music from a variety of cultures, genres and historical periods while developing the practical, theoretical and creative skills required to become confident musicians.

Through a carefully sequenced curriculum, students build their understanding of musical elements, notation and instrumental performance. Practical music-making is at the heart of learning, allowing students to develop technique, creativity, communication and teamwork through individual and ensemble performances.

Our aim is to nurture confident, resilient and creative musicians who can express themselves through music, appreciate the work of others and understand the role music plays in society and culture.

Year	Topic	Summary	Practical Activities	Skills and Knowledge
Year 7	**Note Values and Rhythms**	Students are introduced to the language of rhythm and pulse. They learn to recognise and perform a range of note values and rhythmic patterns, developing accuracy and confidence in reading and performing rhythm notation.	Rhythm games, body percussion, percussion ensemble performances.	Pulse, beat, rhythm, note values, rests, time signatures, ensemble performance, counting rhythms.
	Music Notation and Ukulele	Students develop their understanding of standard music notation while learning the fundamental techniques required to play the ukulele. They perform simple melodies and chord progressions whilst developing their music reading skills.	Ukulele performances, chord exercises, melody playing.	Music notation, fretboard knowledge, chord shapes, strumming patterns, performance techniques, musical literacy.

	Keyboard Skills 1 and Treble Clef	Students learn correct keyboard technique and develop their ability to read notes within the treble clef. Practical activities focus on performing simple melodies using accurate fingering and note recognition.	Keyboard performances and melody exercises.	Treble clef notation, keyboard geography, pitch recognition, fingering, posture, performance skills.
	Instruments of the Orchestra and Foundations	Students explore the four orchestral families and develop an understanding of how instruments create sound. They learn key listening skills and music vocabulary while identifying instrumental timbres.	Listening tasks, instrument identification activities, introductory ensemble work.	String, woodwind, brass and percussion families, timbre, dynamics, pitch, orchestral roles and music terminology.
	Elements of Music and Performance	Students investigate the elements of music and apply them through practical performance activities. They learn how composers and performers use musical elements to communicate ideas and emotions.	Solo and ensemble performances, performance evaluation activities.	Rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, tempo, dynamics, structure, expression, performance confidence and evaluation.
	Keyboard Skills 2	Building on previous keyboard learning, students perform more challenging melodies, chords and accompaniments. They develop fluency, accuracy and independence while applying notation reading skills.	Keyboard performance pieces, paired performances and independent practice tasks.	Keyboard technique, coordination, chords, accompaniment patterns, musical fluency, rehearsal techniques and performance skills.

End of Year 7 Outcomes

By the end of Year 7, students will:

- Read and perform basic rhythmic and pitch notation.
- Demonstrate secure treble clef knowledge.
- Perform confidently on the keyboard and ukulele.
- Identify instruments and families of the orchestra.
- Use the elements of music to describe, analyse and improve performances.
- Work effectively as part of an ensemble and evaluate their own musical progress.
- Develop creativity, resilience and confidence through musical performance.

Year 8 - Music Curriculum Overview

(1 Lesson Per Fortnight)

Year	Topic	Summary	Practical Activities	Skills and Knowledge
Year 8	**Introduction to the Bass Clef**	Students are introduced to bass clef notation and develop their ability to read and perform lower-pitched melodies. This topic strengthens musical literacy and prepares students for more advanced keyboard performance.	Keyboard exercises, note reading challenges, short performances.	Bass clef notation, note recognition, pitch, keyboard geography, sight-reading skills.
	Bass Melodic Lines	Students explore the role of bass lines in music and learn how they provide harmonic and rhythmic foundations. They perform and create simple bass lines using notation and practical instruments.	Keyboard bass line performances, composition tasks.	Bass patterns, ostinato, harmony, accompaniment, rhythmic accuracy, composition skills.
	Blues Music	Students investigate the origins and characteristics of Blues music, exploring its influence on modern music. They perform and compose using the 12-bar blues structure.	Blues performance, improvisation activities, group compositions.	12-bar blues, improvisation, syncopation, call and response, Blues history and cultural significance.
	Chords and Chord Sequences	Students learn how chords are constructed and how chord progressions form the basis of much popular music. They apply this knowledge through practical keyboard and ukulele work.	Chord sequence performances, accompaniment tasks.	Major and minor chords, chord progressions, harmony, accompaniment techniques, musical structure.
	Keyboard Skills 3 and Ukulele 3	Building on previous performance skills, students develop greater fluency and independence on both keyboard and ukulele. They perform more challenging music using both notation and chord symbols.	Solo and ensemble performances, technique exercises.	Advanced fingering, chord transitions, performance confidence, ensemble skills, musical fluency.

	Rock and Roll	Students explore the development of Rock and Roll and its impact on popular music. They analyse key artists and perform characteristic rhythms and chord patterns.	Group performances, listening and analysis activities.	Rock and Roll characteristics, primary chords, rhythm patterns, historical context, performance techniques.
	Music for Video Games	Students explore how music is used to create atmosphere, emotion and immersion within video games. They analyse game soundtracks and compose their own music for a gaming scenario.	Composition projects using technology and keyboards.	Leitmotif, mood and atmosphere, sequencing, game music design, composition and evaluation skills.

End of Year 8 Outcomes

By the end of Year 8, students will:

- Read and perform music using both treble and bass clef notation.
- Understand the role and function of bass lines within different musical styles.
- Perform and compose using the 12-bar Blues structure.
- Apply knowledge of chords and chord sequences in performance and composition.
- Demonstrate increasing fluency on keyboard and ukulele.
- Understand the historical significance of Rock and Roll and its influence on modern popular music.
- Compose and evaluate music for a specific purpose, including video game soundtracks.
- Work collaboratively and independently to create, rehearse and perform music with confidence.

This creates a clear progression from Year 7, moving students from basic notation and performance skills towards harmony, composition and stylistic understanding in preparation for Year 9 and GCSE Music.

Year 9 - Music Curriculum Overview

Year	Topic	Summary	Practical Activities	Skills and Knowledge
Year 9	**Introduction to World Music and Composition**	Students explore music from different cultures and traditions around the world, developing an understanding of how music reflects cultural identity. They begin to apply these influences within their own compositions.	Listening activities, cultural music performances, composition tasks.	World music traditions, musical features, cultural influences, composition techniques, listening and appraising skills.
	Fusions and Reggae (Ukulele)	Students investigate how musical styles combine to create fusion genres, with a particular focus on Reggae music. They develop ukulele performance skills whilst learning characteristic reggae rhythms and chord patterns.	Ukulele ensemble performances, reggae accompaniment patterns, group work.	Off-beat rhythms, syncopation, chord progressions, reggae history, ensemble performance, stylistic awareness.
	Musical Theatre and Rap Composition	Students explore storytelling through music by studying musical theatre and rap. They create original lyrics and compositions, considering structure, rhythm and audience engagement.	Songwriting projects, lyric writing, vocal performances.	Structure, lyrics, rhyme schemes, rhythm, storytelling, performance skills, composition techniques.
	EDM (Electronic Dance Music) and Creating a Song	Students investigate the features of EDM and use music technology to create their own original piece of music. They learn how technology is used in modern music production and composition.	DAW-based composition projects, beat creation, remixing activities.	Sequencing, loops, structure, texture, rhythm programming, production techniques, music technology skills.
	Performance Class	This unit consolidates the skills developed throughout Key Stage 3. Students prepare and perform music individually and in groups, applying performance, composition and rehearsal techniques.	Solo performances, ensemble performances, showcase projects.	Preparation and rehearsal strategies, confidence, stage presence, ensemble awareness, musical interpretation, evaluation and reflection.

End of Year 9 Outcomes

By the end of Year 9, students will:

- Demonstrate confidence performing as a soloist and as part of an ensemble.
- Apply knowledge of notation, rhythm, harmony and musical elements in performance and composition.
- Understand the characteristics of a range of musical styles, genres and traditions from around the world.
- Perform and accompany music using ukulele and keyboard with increasing fluency.
- Compose original music using traditional and digital techniques.
- Analyse and evaluate music using appropriate musical vocabulary.
- Create music for specific purposes and audiences.
- Develop the independence, creativity and musicianship required for progression to GCSE Music.

KS3 Progression Overview

Year 7: Foundations of Musicianship

- Rhythm and notation
- Keyboard and ukulele fundamentals
- Orchestra and musical elements
- Basic performance skills

Year 8: Developing Musical Understanding

- Bass clef literacy
- Blues and Rock & Roll
- Chords and harmony
- Music for Video Games
- Advanced keyboard and ukulele performance

Year 9: Applying and Creating Music

- World Music
- Reggae and Fusion styles

- Songwriting, Musical Theatre and Rap
- EDM and Music Technology
- Performance and preparation for KS4 study

This progression ensures students move from **fundamental musical literacy and performance skills in Year 7**, through **stylistic understanding and harmony in Year 8**, to **independent composition, technology and advanced performance in Year 9**, providing a strong foundation for GCSE Music.