

Music development plan summary: JCoSS

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026–27
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Natasha Berg
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Philippa Granek, Kate Lightman
Name of local music hub	Barnet BEAT
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Specialist instrumental and vocal visiting music practitioners

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

Music is taught throughout Years 7–13 as part of a broad and progressive curriculum. In Years 7 and 8, pupils receive two music lessons per fortnight; Year 9 receives three lessons per fortnight; Years 10 and 11 receive five lessons per fortnight; and Years 12 and 13 receive nine lessons per fortnight.

The curriculum develops pupils' performing, composing, listening and analytical skills through a wide range of styles, genres and musical traditions. Pupils have opportunities to sing, play instruments, compose and use music technology as part of curriculum lessons, alongside the development of theoretical and aural skills.

At Key Stage 4, pupils can study GCSE Music. At Key Stage 5, pupils can study A-level Music and in some years, A-level Music Technology. GCSE and A-level Music students can also access additional composition support at lunchtime from Tuesday to Thursday and after school.

The department aims to make practical music-making accessible to pupils with different needs through appropriate adaptation, support and use of departmental resources.

Part B: Co-curricular music

JCoSS provides a broad programme of co-curricular music across the week, with a mixture of open-access and auditioned groups. Current opportunities include: Guitars & Ukuleles Ensemble, Percussion Orchestra, Funk and Soul, Samba, Jazz, JCoSS Singers, Cage Experimental Music Group, String Ensemble, KS3 Music Tech Club, Junior Singers, Junior and Senior Rock Band and Wind Ensemble. GCSE and A-level composition support also runs at lunchtimes from Tuesday to Thursday, with additional after-school support available.

Individual instrumental and vocal tuition is offered in 10 × 30-minute lessons per term at £260 per term. Tuition is available in:

Recorder, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon and Saxophone; French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tenor Horn and Tuba; Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass; Classical, Acoustic and Electric Guitar and Bass Guitar; Drum Kit, Tuned and Orchestral Percussion; Piano and Voice. Music Theory and Music Technology tuition are also offered.

Ensembles are designed to provide routes for pupils at different stages of musical development. Open-access groups include Percussion Orchestra, Samba, Cage Experimental Music Group, KS3 Music Tech Club and Junior Singers, alongside instrument-specific ensembles for guitar and ukulele, strings, wind, jazz and other groups. JCoSS Singers and Funk and Soul provide auditioned opportunities for pupils ready for more advanced ensemble work.

The programme is supported by school music staff, specialist instrumental and vocal teachers and visiting practitioners.

Part C: Musical experiences

Pupils have opportunities to experience music both as performers and as audience members through school productions, ensemble performances and external live-music experiences.

A major performance opportunity in 2026–27 is the school production of 'Little Shop of Horrors', with performances on 17/18 November 2026. Pupils contribute as musicians and performers, providing experience of preparing music for a full-scale school production. The department's weekly ensemble programme also develops repertoire for performance and gives pupils experience of collaborative music-making across Years 7–13, culminating in termly concerts throughout the year.

Year 11 Music pupils are scheduled to attend the London Philharmonic Orchestra BrightSparks concert on 12 November 2026, giving them the opportunity to experience a professional orchestra live and connect this experience with their GCSE Music studies. GCSE students will also attend 'Wicked' in support of their GCSE set work studies and A Level students see a range of classical music concerts as well.

The department seeks to provide a range of musical experiences across styles and traditions and to

create progression from classroom music-making to ensembles, productions and professional live music.

In the future

The Music Department's priorities are to strengthen progression from curriculum music into co-curricular participation, broaden access to instrumental and vocal tuition, and continue to grow the number and range of pupils taking part in ensembles and performances.

The department will continue to develop its ensemble provision so that pupils have clear routes from open-access groups into more advanced and auditioned opportunities. It will also continue to develop Music Technology provision and make effective use of specialist staff expertise and departmental facilities.

Partnership working with Barnet BEAT, professional musicians and external music organisations will be developed where it can extend pupils' access to high-quality musical experiences. Provision will be reviewed during the year to identify further opportunities to widen participation and support progression.

Further information (optional)

JCoSS works with Barnet BEAT, the local music hub, alongside specialist instrumental and vocal teachers. A range of external concerts and trips provides an additional professional live-music opportunity for pupils in 2026–27.

Information about instrumental tuition, ensembles and performance opportunities is shared with pupils and families through the school's usual communication channels.

This Music Development Plan summary will be reviewed in July 2027 and updated to reflect the school's provision and priorities for the following academic year.