

Music development plan summary: Stormont House School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	Autumn 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	February 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jean Cross
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	David Harries
Name of local music hub	Hackney School Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Hackney Music Treehouse Apollo Orchestra English Touring Opera

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. This is an initial strategy. We will review this in February 2026.

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.

School Curriculum for Music: The Kodály Method is at the heart of our teaching.

Our teaching uses the method of singing, reading and writing music based on the Kodaly Principles. The Kodály method is a system of music education developed in Hungary by Zoltán Kodály that focuses on using singing to build musical literacy, starting with the human voice as the primary instrument. It uses a progressive repertoire of songs, solfège (movable "do"), hand signs, and rhythm names to teach skills like sight-singing and dictation, emphasizing a sequential learning process where students first experience a musical concept before seeing its written notation.

Singing: is key to developing musicianship and is a core part of the curriculum offer.

Performing: Students are given opportunities to perform within a class group or as a soloist, at assemblies and concerts throughout the school year.

Composing and creating: Students are encouraged to express themselves by creating their own music.

Each class from Year 7 to Year 11 receives a 50 minute music lesson per week.

All of the students in the school have an EHCP and are supported with their individual special educational needs. Effort is made to review and ensure that teaching spaces and instruments are accessible for all students including those with mobility needs. We aim to review and improve our provision every year, according to the needs of our students.

Time is allocated as follows:

Key stage 3: One music lesson of 50 minutes weekly

Key stage 4: One weekly music lesson of 50 minutes teaching performance alternating half termly with one weekly lesson of 50 minutes teaching music technology

Key Stage 4 Music technology is delivered by a music technology specialist, who is a professional music producer.

Key outcomes we aim to achieve include that pupils:

- sing with accurate pitch in unison or harmony with attention to phrase and dynamics
- are capable of playing a simple melody on an instrument in an ensemble and to learn it from, for example, staff notation as well as using the hand signs of solfa
- are able to create short phrases of new melodic music
- demonstrate knowledge of music from a range of musical traditions
- increasingly enjoy their music lessons and take part in the wider musical life of the school
- compose music on the computer using digital programmes
- be confident using digital music programmes

Secondary outcomes include that pupils:

- sing or play with sufficient control to be able to perform or compose with purpose, expression and musical understanding, including when using music technology
- perform with connection and co-ordination when making music with others
- can use a system, e.g. staff notation or tab, to learn and perform music appropriate to the instrument and musical style

- demonstrate knowledge of Western classical music and music from a range of musical traditions and understand some of the context that brought the music to being

Our school music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021); non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3. Students in every year group have opportunities to sing either solo or in ensemble and learn to play an instrument during lesson time, through whole-class ensemble teaching. Stormont House School works in partnership with the local music hub school to support curriculum music. The school also works in partnership with the Apollo Orchestra with all of the Year 8 students. Apollo orchestra come in each term for Year 8 and work with them to introduce them to different sections of the orchestra before Year 8 then go to watch the whole orchestra perform.

We give awards in Music during the rewards assemblies each term.

Stormont House is looking into what music qualification we could offer to students to accredit all the wonderful performance work they do in class.

Individual students do have access to study for graded music exams in music production if they show a particular interest and aptitude.

Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

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.

Outside of lesson time, our school offers one-to-one, small-group and large-group tuition for instruments and/or voice. These sessions for ensemble practice can be accessed on Tuesday and Wednesday lunch times between 12.40 and 1.40 pm and are available to all pupils across Key stage 3, 4 and 5. A choir session is run on Friday lunch time between 1pm and 1.40pm

Available instruments include percussion, djembe drums, tuned percussion (marimbas, xylophone), keyboards and acoustic piano, violin, guitar, trumpet and accordion.

Rehearsal Spaces for group rehearsals and individual practice include: Music Room, music practice room, recording studio and recording room

A Choir/ vocal ensemble meets every Friday between 1pm and 1.40 pm to make music for enjoyment as well as to prepare for outside performances and community outreach performances.

Pupils can also make progress in music outside of lesson time, by borrowing instruments, by arrangement.

Pupils attend the Hackney Schools Music singing Festival in June, which is an after-school voluntary activity

- No charge is made for instrumental tuition in violin piano and guitar
- No charge is levied for any musical activity
- Students may borrow violins and recorders according to availability
- The Friday choir is open to all students in every year group
- Pupils can use the music room on Tuesday and Wednesday lunch time for rehearsing or practising individually or in groups.

The school works in partnership with the local music hub, Apollo Orchestra as well as local SEND schools.

Outside of school pupils can attend Hackney Music Treehouse, Saturday music centre.

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.

Autumn Term:

- Live opera performance from English Touring Opera free attendance – no charge is levied to students
- Whole school Christmas Concert and individual student performances attended by all members of the school
- Possibility of singing within the local community

Spring Term:

Year 7 Easter Play- a musical version performed by Year 7 students with additional individual performances from across the school, and attended by all members of the school

Summer Term :

- Record of Achievement assembly and individual student performances

- Year 8 receive visits from members of three sections of the Apollo Orchestra: Brass, woodwind and strings. No charge is made for students to take part in these music workshops
Year 8 students enjoy a live concert performance at the Hackney Empire in July by the Apollo Orchestra. There is no charge for any Year 8 student attending the Concert at Hackney Empire
- Year 8 Musical performance adapted from Oliver Twist and performed by Year 8 students. This is attended by all members of the school as members of the audience as well as parents of Year 8 students
- Pupils from across the whole school sing and perform at the Hackney Music Festival Round Chapel. No charge is levied to students.

Charging information

All performances from visiting musicians and orchestras as well as concert fees are paid for by the school and are free for all students to attend, with no charge
Parents are free to attend (with voluntary donation only to the Round Chapel concert)

In the future

Information and improvements:

In the future Stormont House school envisage offering a qualification for KS4 music

When the budget allows instruments are purchased so that pupils can learn an instrument. Currently we are trialling teaching guitar to Year 11 students.

Pop-up performances take place according to the school calendar.

Students are invited to attend the local Pantomimes or Musicals throughout the academic year.

Further information (optional)

Organisations to which the school is affiliated can be contacted below:

Apollo Music Projects

<https://www.apollomusicprojects.org/>

English touring opera

<https://englishtouringopera.org.uk/venues/schools-performance-east-london>

The Department for Education publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Our music hub has a plan for music education in place from September 2024 which includes useful information.

Hackney Music service offers out of school tuition

<https://www.hackneymusic.co.uk/>