

Music Development Plan

The Basildon Academies

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	January 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2027
Name of the school music lead	Miss G Stoddard
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	BLA – C O’Keefe BUA – S Bellenie
Name of local music hub	Greater Essex Music Hub: Essex Music Service

Overview

We strive to deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, extra-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#).

The information in this summary is to help students and parents/carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our student’s music education as well as changes we are planning in future years.

We teach Music at The Basildon Academies as it acts in a unique way on the heart, mind, soul, and spirit of the child, stimulating thought, imagination, creativity, and a skillset.

We aim to instil a passion and inspire students to develop a love of Music, so it increases their self-confidence, sense of achievement and cultural experiences.

The Music curriculum is designed to introduce the next generation to a broad and ambitious repertoire, building up from basic terminology and chronology of Music, through to a broad range of classic tradition, popular artists, and performances from around the world. This allows students to develop risk taking, problem solving and become creative thinkers who can collaborate with others well and work independently.

The Music department supports all students to ensure they are ready for progression from KS3 to GCSE by offering a rich and varied framework that nurtures fundamental Music techniques, offering a clear pathway towards mature understanding and defined end points. Foundation elements complement developing aural skills, improvisation, memorisation, and composition.

We build community through the shared endeavour of performance whether it be singing, ensemble playing/group performances or School Production, experimenting with the creative process and through the love of listening and watching friends and fellow students, performing. The sheer joy of performance making feeds the soul of our school community, enriching each student while strengthening the shared bonds of support and trust.

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 students can achieve.

In each year group students study Performing Arts (PA) which encompasses both Music and Drama to the ratio of 1:3 respectively, for the equivalent of half a term for every project.

An example overview:

	Term 1		Term 2		Term 3	
	September - December		January - April		April - July	
	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3	Half Term 4	Half Term 5	Half Term 6
Yr 7						
Yr 8						
Yr 9						

- Our school curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) which provides non-statutory guidance for teaching Music in Key Stage 3
- We follow the Charanga Model Music Curriculum/Charanga Original Scheme, which has been written to follow the scope and breadth of the Model Music Curriculum.
- We partner with Greater Essex Music Hub and [Essex Music Service](#) to support musical opportunities for our pupils.
- In September 2024, The Basildon Lower Academy was awarded certification as a **Music Mark School**, in recognition of a commitment to providing a high-quality music education for all children and young people.
- In September 2025, The Basildon Lower Academy was awarded certification for dedication and improvement in Music Education.

The opportunities our students have to sing or play an instrument during lesson time are as follows:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Year 7	-	Singing, drumming and percussion	Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Keyboards
Year 8	Keyboards, Ukulele, singing	-	Keyboards, Music Production, singing multi instruments
Year 9	Keyboards, Music Production DAW.	Keyboards, bass, guitar, singing	-

Additional instrumental Music lessons and qualifications information can be found in the Extra Curricular Music section.

KS4 Music

GCSE Music was introduced to our first cohort of students in Sep 2024 at the Upper Academy.

A secondary pathway BTEC Music was introduced in Sep 2025 at the Upper Academy.

Both pathways have 2 lessons per week, 1 x 90 min, 1 x 60 min.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
GCSE Music Yr10	HT1 - Back to Basics HT2 - Pop Music	HT3- World Rhythms HT4- Film Music	HT5- Compositions HT6 - Free Composition
GCSE Music Yr11	HT1 - Completing Free Composition HT2 - Concerto Through Time	HT3 - Introducing Brief Composition/Revision HT4 - Completing ARA and Revision	HT5 - Revision for exam
BTEC Music Yr10	HT1 - Back to Basics HT2 - Exploring Musical Styles for Comp 1	HT3 - Comp 1 Task A Controlled Assessment and Compositional Skills HT4- Comp 1 Task B - Composing to a theme	HT5 - Comp 1 Task B Composing to a theme. HT6 - Comp 2 exploring professional and commercial skills
BTEC Music Yr11	Comp 2 – Music Skills Development	Comp 3 – Responding to a commercial brief	

Part B: Extra Curricular Music

At Basildon Lower Academy we aim to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to sing and play music outside of lesson time.

Music & Performance Enrichment Provision

1. Choir

- Free to join and open to all pupils.
- Operates on a performance-based model.
- Regular school performances: Open Evening, Christmas Fayre, Summer Fayre
- Annual external performances:
 - Towngate Theatre (Jack Petchey Awards – September)
 - Brentwood Centre (Christmas)
- Closed rehearsals held during the school day in preparation for performances.

2. School Band

- Free to join and open to all pupils.
- Recruited through instrument-specific workshops (Wednesday after school)
- Instruments: Drums, Guitar, Bass, Keyboard, Vocals
- Pupils placed into bands and supported.

3. DJ Workshops

- Free to pupils when funding is available.
- Have run annually for the past three years.
- Sign-up communicated to parents via email nearer the time.
- Participating pupils DJ, the Summer Fayre performance

4. Samba Drumming Workshops

- Free to pupils
- Run during the Summer term
- Delivered in preparation for the Summer Fayre performance.

5. Sound and Lighting Technician Team

- Open to any pupil interested in technical theatre roles.
- Pupils see Miss Stoddard or Mr Khan to join.
- Students support sound and lighting for school performances and events.

Music Production: Charanga and Yu Studio

Music Production is free to access and open to all Basildon Academy pupils, as the academy has bought into the programme.

All pupils are provided with a **login and password**, allowing them to access **Charanga** and **Yu Studio free of charge** on **any device at home**, including: Mobile phones, Tablets, Laptops.

These platforms are cloud-based, meaning pupils can access their work anywhere and their compositions are automatically saved and stored online.

Music production enables pupils to compose, create and produce music digitally without the requirement to play a traditional instrument.

Pupils develop skills in:

- Digital composition and sequencing
- Structuring and refining musical ideas.
- Listening and evaluating music

In addition to Charanga and Yu Studio, pupils are encouraged to explore a range of music apps and websites that they have identified as enjoyable and accessible, including:

- Groovepad
- Yousician

This provision supports inclusive music-making and ensures all pupils can engage with composition and music technology regardless of access to instruments at home.

Peripatetic Music Instrument Lessons

We offer individual music lessons in partnership with Essex Music Service, delivered by specialist music tutors.

Lessons take place during the school day. Pupils who are already receiving lessons do not need to re-register each term.

Instruments Available

We offer a wide range of instrumental and vocal lessons to suit different interests and abilities, including:

- Acoustic Guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Ukulele
- Keyboard
- Piano
- Singing
- Drums
- DJ-ing
- Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Violin

How to Apply

Parents and carers are invited to register interest each term via the Essex Music Service registration link shared by the Music Department sent out via email. Pupils are added to a waiting list, and when a lesson slot becomes available, Essex Music Service will contact families directly with invoicing details.

Lesson Structure and Costs

There are 30 lessons across the academic year (10 lessons per term).

- 10 × 15-minute lessons per term (recommended for beginners):
£97.50 per term.
- 10 × 30-minute lessons per term:
£195 per term

If lessons begin partway through a term, fees are adjusted accordingly.

Financial Support

Financial assistance is available to support equitable access:

- Families with a household income under £24,000 may apply for a 50% discount.
- Looked After Children, Adopted Children, and pupils with Social Care involvement are entitled to 10 free 15-minute lessons per term.

Further information and application details are shared with parents/carers when registration opens.

Instruments and Equipment

Pupils are expected to have access to their own instrument for home practice and lessons (except for piano and drums).

The Music Department has a number of instruments available on site, including:

- Acoustic and electric guitars
- Bass guitars
- Violins
- Pianos and drum kits

For pupils without an instrument, low-cost instrument hire is available through Essex Music Service.

Additional Information

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Read Essex Music Service's Terms and Conditions for Parents
- Refer to the school's Parent's Guide to Music Lessons
- Sign up to the free Essex Music Service newsletter *In Tune* for additional music opportunities.

Out of hours learning.

Home music practice is encouraged for our students to enable them to practice their instrument, theory notation as well as compose music in their own time.

We provide homework sheets to take home which can be found at the front of every Music classroom.

We also provide students free access to cloud based DAW software called:

Saturday Music School

Following the success of the previous Saturday Music School programme, we anticipate running this again as a free opportunity for pupils with an interest in music to create and develop ensembles or bands.

Sessions focus on collaborative music-making, rehearsal skills, and ensemble performance, providing an additional platform for pupils to engage with music beyond the school day.

Music Summer School

We aim to continue our free, week-long Music Summer School, where pupils work collaboratively to form bands, rehearse and develop performance skills, culminating in a final showcase performance at the end of the week.

This provision supports intensive ensemble music-making and provides an immersive musical experience beyond the school day.

Part C: Music Workshops/Events/Performances

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in the community, concerts and shows, and trips to watch professional performances.

In September 2024 we were awarded certification as a **Music Mark School**. Recognised for our commitment to providing a high-quality music education for our students awarded by the UK Association for Music Education.

The Music Department actively seeks third party Grants and funding to offer students mostly free opportunities and experiences within Music.

The following experiences and opportunities are offered for free to our students (unless stated otherwise) and every year group is encouraged to take part:

Term 1 –

School Choir performances at The Towngate Theatre for the Jack Petchey Awards

Band and Choir performances at Year 6 Open Evening

West End Theatre trip for students to experience a live show (£2 contribution)

Choir performance at The Brentwood Centre accompanied by The Essex Youth orchestra.

Band and Choir performances at the Basildon Lower Academy annual Christmas Fayre which is a free event for parents/carers to attend.

Term 2 –

Open Mic at The Towngate Theatre for students to perform on stage alongside musicians from other schools, embedding a culture of music community.

Taste Your Future – Saturday Career Music session.

DJ workshops with visiting industry DJ and producer.

Term 3 –

Samba Band visiting workshop from professional company '**Rhythm Connections.**'

Samba Band, School Rock Band, student DJ's, and Choir performances at our Summer Fayre which is a free event for parents/carers to attend

Future planning

Since **January 2026**, the Music Department has introduced **brass instrument tuition**, with **trumpet and trombone** now offered through **small-group peripatetic lessons**. As this provision develops, we anticipate **integrating brass instruments into the School Band model** and introducing **brass ensembles**, supported by visiting specialist tutors.

Through the continued **expansion of peripatetic music tuition**, we aim to create **larger and more diverse ensembles and bands**, incorporating a wider range of **orchestral instruments** as the department develops.

We also aim to:

Introduce **music qualifications within peripatetic lessons**, encouraging and supporting pupils to undertake **instrumental examinations and awards** (including **ABRSM and Trinity graded examinations**)

Further embed **Music Technology pathways**, building on existing **YuStudio DAW projects**, where completion of a genre-based project is **equivalent to a Level 1 Music Technology outcome**.

Continue the delivery of YuStudio projects across **all year groups**, ensuring consistency and progression in music technology learning.

The **creator of YuStudio**, in partnership with **Essex Music Service**, is currently working towards this programme becoming a **formal qualification**, which we anticipate adopting when available.

Looking ahead, we aim to develop:

- A **dedicated Music Technology computer suite**
- A **recording studio** to support composition, production, and performance pathways.
- We are also exploring the **revival of the school radio station**, previously operational at the academy. This would provide pupils with a real-world platform to develop **audio production, presenting and broadcasting skills**, complementing our existing provision in **Music Technology, DJ workshops and recording studio development**. This initiative would further support **student leadership, creativity and cross-curricular enrichment** through student-led content and broadcasts.