

John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre: Music Development Plan



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	1 st September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr. Matt Ball (Subject Lead: Music)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss Kelly Davies (Head of Faculty: Creative Arts)
Name of local music hub	Encore Enterprises

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

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.

- In Key Stage 3 (KS3), all year groups receive 1 hour long weekly timetabled music lesson. This also includes Year 9. In Key Stage Four, students receive 5 hours across a two-weekly timetable. The curriculum at JKHS functions as spiral, developing a variety of different skills incrementally across different schemes of learning. JKHS Music is taught through students actively participating in musical activity, rather than as passive listeners. The curriculum is carefully aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and listening and appraising choices are informed by the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum to ensure a breadth of technical elements and styles/genres are covered.
- Students are able to use a wide variety of instruments throughout their timetabled music lessons, including djembes, drum kits, electric and acoustic guitars, ukuleles, bass guitar, double bass, timpani and keyboards. Should a student already be learning another instrument,

they are encouraged to use this for tasks in KS3. Throughout KS3, students have opportunities to sing in timetabled lessons, including whole class singing and student band work where access to microphones is provided.

- JKHS is passionate and committed to increasing access and providing support for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in music education. A range of adjustments include:

- Specialist technology/adaptive seating/music stands when needed.
- Adjustments to instruments when necessary
- Practice rooms and ear defenders for those with sensory issues
- Now and Next boards/priority boards and differentiated teaching styles and tasks
- Extra time at both KS3 and KS4 when needed
- Teaching assistant presence as needed
- Mixed ability groupings and careful choice of repertoire (adapted when needed) to promote diversity.
- Classrooms and practice rooms all on the ground floor to support accessibility and larger practice rooms provided when needed
- Alternative or adjusted printed materials e.g. font, paper colour or size

- At KS4, students have the opportunity to choose either a BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice or Eduqas GCSE Music depending on the strengths and passion of the student. The curriculum in KS3 is designed to set students up with the tools to be successful in either choice. The BTEC is structured to promote a technology and producing focus, whereas GCSE provides a more theoretical and performing based option to cater for a wide range of abilities and interest.

- JKHS is also kitted with a full range of music technology, with a fitted music studio including a mixing desk and Mac wired in for recording into Logic Pro X. Students in KS3 use computers and MIDI keyboards to create and produce music using BandLab for Education. Once into KS4, students can use the dedicated Mac suite with MIDI keyboards for use with Musescore and Logic Pro X to compose for their coursework. Students in KS4 also have individual log ins to the Focus on Sound software for listening and appraising study support.

- JKHS Music Department works closely with Encore Enterprises who provide 1:1 instrumental tuition on a variety of instruments, lead a number of extra-curricular groups and support concerts held by the school. Encore also provides teacher CPD in termly network meetings.

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.

- Encore Enterprise provide one to one instrumental tuition at JKHS on the following instruments: guitar, bass, ukulele, cello, double bass, mandolin, violin, viola, flute, clarinet, oboe, drum kit, piano, keyboard and vocals. Brass tuition is currently subject to numbers. Some of these lessons are conducted in small groups to reduce cost and this is arranged between the teacher and parent. Payment and communication for these lessons is charged and arranged directly from the instrumental teacher to the parent. Instrumental lessons happen during the school day on a rotation basis to ensure students are not missing the same timetabled lesson frequently.
- Instrumental lessons for those on Pupil Premium/Free School Meals are currently funded by the school. Instrument hire is also provided for free from Encore Enterprises in these circumstances. Should a student opt for GCSE Music or BTEC Music and is not receiving PP or FSM, the school provides a small fund to support parents in paying for instrumental lessons to support their KS4 learning. Students are also actively encouraged to apply to Herefordshire Music Fund should funding instrumental lessons be difficult.
- JKHS Music Department has a range of instruments for students to borrow, however generally, this is arranged through Encore Enterprises on their hire an instrument scheme.
- JKHS Music Department provides a wide range of extra-curricular clubs to enhance the curriculum offering, these are run by the Subject Lead, Teacher of Music and instrumental teachers from Encore Enterprises. These include JKHS Band (school orchestra), JKHS Choir, Guitar/Ukulele/Bass group, Sqwonk (woodwind group), KS4 Coursework Clinic, JKHS String Group and Music Technology group. Students are encouraged to lead these groups through conducting where possible. These groups are free to attend and when led by teachers from Encore Enterprises, this is funded by the school and music department. Should a student wish to join JKHS band, parts are regularly adapted and adjusted to suit a wide range of abilities and instruments. The department is also open every break and lunchtime with the practice rooms on a booking system to allow students to jam and practice during these times.
- Extracurricular music happens daily in tutor time from 8:45am to 9:15am and attendance is tracked and monitored by the Subject Lead. Should a student fail to meet behaviour or uniform expectations across the school, right to attend these groups can be revoked by their tutor or Subject Lead for music.
- Students are asked to perform at school events. JKHS students have previously performed at: Bingo Evening, Y9 Rewards Event, Remembrance Day, Y11 Prom and Open Evening. The music department hopes to increase this, with regular performances outside of school

within the community through local partnerships in the Ross-on-Wye and wider community.

- In-school musical events currently take place in the Autumn Term at Christmas and Summer Term at the end of the year. The department has utilised a recent donation of equipment to the school to provide a performance space (amps, mixing desk and microphones) in one of the classrooms in preparation to provide mini lunchtime concerts across the year.
- The music department is also heavily involved in the school's wider arts faculty with an annual school production. Recently, in 2025, the school performed the musical Sister Act, with Matilda Jr. planned for early 2027.

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, JKHS Music Department hosts a Carol Concert in the local St Mary's Church and Summer Showcase concert in school.
- The carol concert will be happening in December at St Mary's Church in Ross-on-Wye. This follows the successful performance of Sister Act in the 2025-2026 academic year by JKHS Music and Drama Departments.
- The department is planning on running regular lunchtime student-led concerts within the department, also using these as an opportunity for KS4 students to share their performance progress. The Summer Showcase is planned to take place July 2027 with the possibility of opening this up to the community further, in a festival style on the school field.
- In 2026-2027, JKHS Music Department hopes to take smaller groups of musicians out to the community more regularly, particularly visiting the local nursing home and providing community performances.
- JKHS Music Department hope to receive further invitations and opportunities to collaborate with the Academy Trust and secondary schools in Herefordshire through the hub.

- Students are also actively encouraged to attend Encore Enterprises Saturday and weeknight ensembles including the youth orchestra. JKHS has a strong group of musicians who are regular performers in these ensembles.
- With any in-house or school-led concert, students who are regularly practising in the music department during break or lunch, regular attendees of extra-curricular music clubs and/or performing well in instrumental lessons are invited to perform and share their progress. This includes both instrumentalists and music technology enthusiasts.
- Tickets have always been free for both the Carol Concert and Summer Showcase. A small entrance fee is usually charged for school musicals. The Carol Concert and Sister Act school musical showed strong attendance by parents/carers.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

At John Kyrle, we are passionate about keeping up to date with the latest music education research to inform and improve our curriculum and assessment offering at KS3 and KS4. The curriculum is consistently under review and scrutinised to ensure the best and most suitable offering for students at JKHS is provided. Since joining the Heart of Mercia Trust, JKHS seeks to expand its musical experiences for students, offering further trips and visits outside of school and collaborating more actively with connected schools/sixth forms.

From September 2026, the Music Department will place an increased emphasis on the explicit teaching, retrieval and assessment of musical vocabulary and underpinning knowledge. Through sequenced vocabulary mapping, regular retrieval practice, key vocabulary quizzes and department booklets, students will develop the language and conceptual understanding needed to perform, compose and appraise music with increasing fluency and confidence. This work will sit alongside the continued development of practical musicianship, ensuring that all students become knowledgeable, articulate and successful musicians.

A number of concerts and musical events are already scheduled within the school calendar for the 2026–2027 academic year, ensuring regular opportunities for students to perform and celebrate their musical achievements. In addition, the drama department is pleased to be planning its annual school production, *Matilda Jr*, for March 2027, providing another major collaborative performance opportunity for students across the school.

Further information

- **Encore Enterprises:** <https://www.encore-enterprises.com/>
- **JKHS Charging and Remissions Policy:** <https://www.jkhs.org.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=25>
- **Heart of Mercia Academy Trust website:** <https://heartofmercia.org.uk/>
- 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.
- The school music curriculum and road maps are available on the Music page on the school website: John Kyrle High School - Music ([jkhs.org.uk](https://www.jkhs.org.uk))