

## Music development plan summary: *Isebrook School*

This development plan sets out how Isebrook School will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

### Overview

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stage 3.
- Music offered as an option for KS4 & Post 16
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school-wide choir (Creating Tomorrow Voices) timetabled rehearsal once a week
- school ensembles
- a termly school performance (Christmas Carol Concert, Spring Concert, Summer CTV Concert plus additional opportunities such as Prom Band and Talent Shows.
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	Jan 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Jan 2026
Name of the school music lead	Cath Grice
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NMPAT Music Education Hub East Midlands (MEHEM) Collaborative Role) Dr Rosie Rushton (25/26) Musical Play Framework

This is a summary of how Isebrook 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.

Music lessons at Isebrook are taught by a specialist Music Teacher and supported by a specialist Music Teaching Assistant.

In Key Stage 3, Music is taught in 55 minute lessons once a week.

In Key Stage 4, Music runs as an Option and students can choose from a range of subjects.

### **Music Option**

Both Key Stages are split into Pathways 1&2 and Pathway 3&4. Isebrook Pathways reflect the different aspirational outcomes for students upon leaving Isebrook.

The delivery of the curriculum looks different in each Pathway, to suit the individual needs of students and to support students in reaching their intended outcomes. Music is a popular Option amongst all Pathways and lessons are delivered at the appropriate level.

Music Option for Pathway 1&2 is 55 minutes weekly and for Pathway 3&4 as a 1 hour and 50 minute weekly lesson.

There is an opportunity to study for a qualification (currently GCSE Music) from Y10 and often into Post 16. The GCSE has a separate session on the timetable and runs every week for 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Music lessons take place in a purpose built specialist Music Room that include access to a class set of Keyboards, Guitars and Ukuleles, along with a range of Djembes and Hand Percussion. We also have two Drum Kits and a well equipped Music Studio space.

In addition to this, there is a timetabled session for Creating Tomorrow Voices – Isebrook's School Choir. This Choir rehearses in the Hall every week for 55 minutes.

Students choose to attend this session and the Choir currently has around 100 students – almost half of the School. It is a multi-sensory experience with a mix of pre-verbal (sensory), signers and singers to include all of our learners at Isebrook.

Students also have the opportunity to attend a variety of Lunchtime Clubs ranging from Pop Choir, Rock Schools and Music Technology.

Classes in Year 7 and 8 are mixed and follow a two year rolling study programme where skills are consolidated across new content for the second year of study.

We follow the outline of the Model Music Curriculum's focus on Singing, Listening, Composing and Performing/Instrument Performing. We take a new curriculum focus every term – starting with The Elements of Music and build on these skills across Orchestra and World Music and then revisit these core skills for the second year of study, allowing repetition to support recall and confidence.

Year 9 study a new genre every half term and their focus is further developing existing skills with more opportunities to promote Ensemble performing.

The Music Option in Year 10 and 11 consolidates all these skills and also offers an opportunity to specialise in a particular area in our “projects” time.

We are currently following the OCR GCSE Music curriculum.

Our Statement of Intent for Music captures our vision for our amazing School:

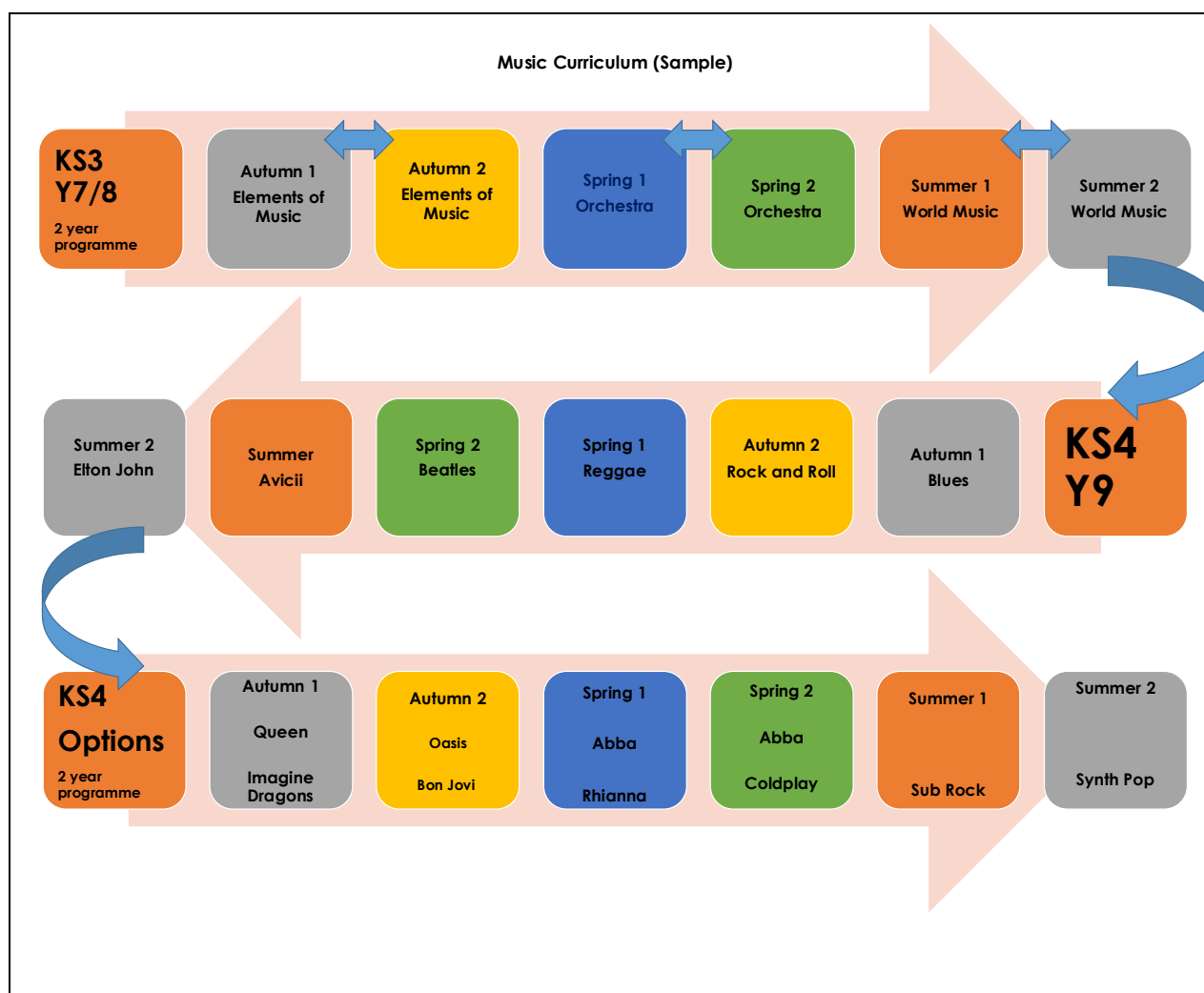
*Music at Isebrook is a fun, inclusive and diverse learning experience.*

*Lessons are practical and accessible to all students – even if this is receiving the lesson passively whilst absorbing a sonic or sensory experience.*

*Our focus is practical, hands on, to inspire exploration of sound, pitch and rhythm. Music can nurture creativity and self expression – and Isebrook students are given the time and space to explore their own creativity, build their confidence and be able to express themselves. Music is an universal language and, at Isebrook, it gives our students a voice to their own expression and sense of achievement.*

*Music lessons promote strong listening skills and increasing confidence and self-expression. Students learn to work co-operatively as part of a team and independently. Most of all, it is all about having fun and discovering a creative sense of self.*

There are a range of performance opportunities for students across the School including at least three Concerts (Christmas, Spring and Summer) as well as trips and workshops such as Creating Tomorrow Voices' (CTV) collaborations with Schools from across the Trust and the wider SEN community. We also host Talent Shows and staff/student bands that perform at various events including the annual Prom.



## Part B: Extra-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.

We are immensely proud to be able to offer 5 and a half hours of Peripatetic Teaching in partnership with Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT). This is fully subsidised by Isebrook School and offers around 20 students the opportunity to learn Keyboard/Brass/Guitar/Ukulele/Drums on a 1:1 basis with SEN (Reach the Stars) specialist Instrumental Teachers. These timetables are all full and have a waiting list – they are a very popular! Some students are working towards graded music exams.

These lessons are generally 20 minutes, with some 15 minute lesson if we have complete beginners or if this is more appropriate to the individual student.

NMPAT have a Saturday School that is promoted within their lessons.

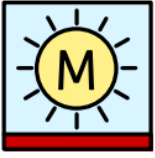

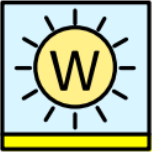
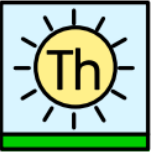
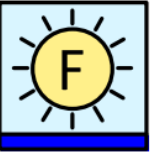































Many of the School's student body attend the Creating Tomorrow Voices Choir rehearsal. This is around 100 students – some access this on a purely sensory level, some sign, and many sing and sign. This rehearsal has a dedicated timetabled session every week for 45 minutes.

The Choir often headline the School Concerts which fall at Christmas, Spring and Summer (at least one per term) along with a selection of soloists and ensemble (band) numbers.

We welcome parents to our Christmas, Spring, and Summer and Music Concerts and various events throughout the year to share wealth of musical talent that we have at Isebrook. In Summer 2024, we performed at Wicksteed Park Pavillion in collaboration with Windmill Hill, another School in the Trust. We are looking to maintain this end of year Finale Collaborative Event. All our Music Events are popular and well attended by our Parents/Carers.

In addition to this, we have a thriving Lunchtime Club programme that both captures and develops learning from the curriculum.

Here is a sample timetable.

 Monday	 Tuesday	 Wednesday	 Thursday	 Friday
	 12:30 KS4  Music  Tech  Club	 12:00 Isebrook  School  Band  KS4+5	 12:00 KS4  Pop  Choir	 12:00 KS4  Rock  Club
 12:30 KS3  Music  Tech  Club	 12:30 KS3  Singing           &  Signing  Club	 1:10 Creating  Tomorrow  Voices	 12:30 KS5  Music  Tech  Club	

## 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.

We offer a wide range of musical events and opportunities for all students, most of which are detailed in Part B.

Some events for parents are free to attend but we have also charged for some of our larger events such as Christmas Carols and Creating Tomorrow Voices as these events have provided a useful funding stream to further enrich our music curriculum.

## In the future

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

We are on an incredible Music making journey at Isebrook – and our plans for the future are exciting. As a School, we are adopting a more therapeutic approach to our delivery, embracing the Thrive curriculum and striving for both personalised and inclusive learning. This therapeutic approach is in response to observed changes in the cohorts we welcome to Isebrook in the last few years and how we are adapting teaching to incorporate more 'joint attention' tasks. This in turn leads to more effective lines of communication and has given staff a better insight into how our young people process information. Joint attention work breaks the barrier between adult and learner and enables both parties to learn from one another. This cohesive teaching and learning approach has proven beneficial in not only the development of relationships between staff and students, but also the evident progress being made by students as their learning experiences are bespoke, purposeful and meaningful to them.

We are incredibly proud and excited to be joining Dr Rosie Rushton next year to work collaboratively to implement the Musical Play Framework for our lower Pathways in particular.

The Musical Play Framework for delivering music aligns with joint attention and promotes accessible engagement for our students. The opportunity to enhance the musical experience we can offer our learners would be invaluable and could, in turn, create an immersive learning environment in which our students could flourish. The impact of Music on the development on communication skills is underestimated and we strive to demonstrate the invaluable benefits for our students and their outcomes.

This opportunity to work with/alongside Dr Rosie Ruston to facilitate her Musical Play Framework would both support and ultimately enable us to meet the needs of our changing cohorts. It would take us further on our incredible journey of music making at Isebrook.

In addition to this, we are also incorporating Music Technology into our curriculum. Music Technology gives our Music provision a fresh perspective – it is interactive, screen/sound based and suits many of our learners well.

### **Further information (optional)**