



Music development plan summary: Robert Clack School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs N Chapman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr J Walker
Name of local music hub	Barking and Dagenham
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Restore the Music UK

Introduction

Music at Robert Clack is the audible identity of the school community. The department is led by Mrs N Chapman, with Miss A Dolinska as subject leader for Lymington fields. There are two additional music teachers in the department.

At each site, the music department is equipped with a range of specialist music equipment. For practical music, students have access to keyboards, ukuleles, acoustic, bass and electric guitars, drum kits, and samba drums. Each site is also equipped with IT equipment (PC's at Gosfield Road, and iMacs at Green Lane and Lymington Fields).

The music curriculum has been designed to engage, inspire and challenge students focusing on composing, performing, listening and appraising with the addition of music industry at KS5.

Lesson duration at Robert Clack is 1 hour and 40 minutes. At KS3, students receive one music lesson every two weeks. At KS4, students receive three lessons every two weeks in year 10 and this increases to four lessons in year 11. At KS5, students receive six lessons every two weeks.

Alongside the classroom curriculum, there is an extensive extra-curricular programme available to all students with multiple events throughout the year including concerts, Battle of the Bands and a school production.

Part A: Curriculum music

Music at Key Stage 3

Our KS3 Music Curriculum has been designed to engage, inspire and challenge students focusing on composing, performing, listening and appraising. This is derived from the National Curriculum, Model Music Curriculum and looking ahead to the programme of study at GCSE and sixth form.

The curriculum is designed to expose students to a wide range of music styles, with the foundation of fundamental music theory and performance technique. Our aim is to build well-rounded, competent and confident musicians that lay the foundation for GCSE Music and beyond. Students are encouraged to collaborate with others, be creative and develop resilience through a variety of tasks.

At the beginning of each lesson, students receive their core skills music education which includes reading music notation, the elements of music through listening and appraising and whole class singing. In addition to this, year 9 students complete rhythm dictation as a step up to GCSE music.

The topics studied are designed to embed the core skills and develop performing and composing skills. Students experience topics such as classical composition, Reggae performance on ukulele, blues on keyboard and Samba drumming. For more information of the topics covered, please revisit the KS3 curriculum map (link available on school website).

All students, regardless of ability or need, are challenged through scaffolded learning tasks and extension work aimed to develop music ability and promote enjoyment of the subject. For example, performance topics use a medal levels system with bronze being the end goal for all students, silver for most and gold for some. Resources are also tailored to ensure they are accessible to all as well as more challenging work provided for students who are more capable and/or receive music tuition outside the curriculum.

Classroom learning is supported through online resources via the KS3 Music Google Site (link available on school website) and Teaching Gadget, as well as google classroom.

Music at Key Stage 4

At KS4, students study Eduqas GCSE Music which is delivered through the elements of music (MAD T SHIRTS). The course includes:

- Solo and ensemble performance (30%)
- Composition - one free composition and one set brief composition (30%)
- Listening and appraising exam including wider listening and two set works (40%)

The aim of GCSE Music is to develop well-rounded musicians in performance, composition and listening and appraising. These skills are interconnected and are present in all topics covered. Students specialise on their chosen instrument and have the freedom to develop and explore their own creative interests, as well as extending their skills through the exploration of new styles of music.

The foundations set at KS3 continue into KS4, with core skills embedded into classroom work and homework tasks.

To support students develop their performance skills, they receive a one-to-one or small group instrumental every week with CMS or private instrumental teachers and conduct regular performance tasks with the classroom teacher. Students who choose GCSE music come from a range of performance backgrounds, from those who have been learning an instrument privately for several years to complete beginners. All instrumental lessons are tailored to suit the individual, taking ability and any learning needs into account.

Students begin their composing journey through short development tasks prior to starting their free composition. This is closely monitored by the classroom teacher who can provide the tailored support at the appropriate time. Students select the software they wish to compose on and are supported through the process by their peers and teacher. Listening and appraising is delivered by the classroom teacher and supported by through online resources (links below).

GCSE Music curriculum map: [KS4 Curriculum Map](#)

GCSE Music Google Site: [GCSE Music](#)

Teaching Gadget: teachinggadget.com

Music at Key Stage 5

At KS5, students study Music BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music Performance. The course includes:

- Unit 1: Practical music theory and harmony (mandatory – 90 GLH – internally assessed)
- Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry (mandatory – 90 GLH – externally assessed)
- Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance (mandatory – 120 GLH – externally assessed)
- Unit 6: Solo performance (optional – 60 GLH – internally assessed)

The aim of KS5 music is to enable students to master the music skills they have developed through KS3 and KS4, as well as acquire new knowledge and skills of the music industry to give them a broad and balanced music curriculum.

The course demands a higher level of independent and team works skills through a range of tasks. Students begin the course with unit 1 to revisit and embed the core music theory learnt in KS3 and KS4, as well as deepening their understanding. This is developed through a variety of performance, composition and listening and appraising tasks tailored to their needs. They will begin unit 2 in year 1 in preparation for the assessment of this topic at the end of year 1. To support students develop their performance skills ready for year 2, they receive a one-to-one or small group instrumental every week with CMS or private instrumental teachers and conduct regular performance tasks with the classroom teacher. Students will be expected to start the course with the ability to perform a musical instrument but are closely supported by their instrumental teacher to develop their skills regardless of ability or need.

The classroom teacher will set regular tasks for students to complete outside the lesson and support is provided through online resources (links below).

KS5 BTEC Music curriculum information: [KS5 Music - BTEC](#)

KS5 BTEC Music Google Site: [KS5 BTEC Music](#)

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Beyond our class teaching, students are given the opportunity to expand their musical experience by attending extra-curricular within school and through the Barking and Dagenham Music Service.

The extra-curricular timetable for 26/27 academic year includes:

- RCS choir
- Band club
- Samba
- School orchestra (requirement to rent/own an orchestral instrument, led by CMS instrumental teacher)
- Year 11 ensemble practise
- GCSE intervention

All these ensembles and activities are available free of charge and available to all students and run either at lunch time or after school. Students' progress is monitored, and each activity is goal driven, which is usually participation in the annual Christmas and Summer concerts.

We have visiting instrumental teachers from the Community Music Service and one private teacher. These lessons are offered to students of interest, with limited number of places. The instruments available to learn are:

- Strings: violin, viola, cello
- Woodwind: flute, clarinet, saxophone
- Brass: trumpet, trombone, tenor horn
- Guitar: acoustic, electric
- Piano
- Voice
- Drum kit

Students at KS4 & KS5 who take music as an option, receive these lessons free of charge to support with their continued musical development and coursework completion.

Students in KS3 who are in receipt of pupil premium will be eligible for a lesson free of charge. All other KS3 students will be required to pay in full.

These additional learning activities throughout the academic culminate in a variety of performance opportunities including:

- Christmas and summer concerts
- School music production (every other year)
- Christmas choir singing in Romford
- Performances during assemblies and other whole school events

Part C: Musical experiences

Throughout the academic year, students are afforded the opportunity to attend trips and workshops to broaden their experience of music. Since 21/22 academic year, the music department has organised the following trips/workshops:

- Musical theatre shows
- Disney Musical workshops
- Careers talk by Shao Dow
- Music studio visit
- Music and Science workshop at the Royal Albert Hall
- BrightSparks GCSE Music concert
- Royal Academy of Music audition club
- Army Band workshop
- Christmas Carolling and supporting raising money for local charities

For the next academic, the department intends to offer the following performance opportunities available to all students to either perform or attend:

- Regular performances during assemblies and whole-school events
- Musical theatre trip (small fee required)
- Christmas concert
- Summer concert

In the future

The music department at Robert Clack are always striving to provide as many opportunities for our students as possible.

Our aspirations for the department are:

- RCS Samba band – over the next few years, our goal is to develop the samba band to achieve a standard that will enable us to perform at events in the local community, such as the Barking and Dagenham Carnival
- Band club – a more structured approach to practise rooms, with more teacher guidance to produce more bands to perform at our events
- DJing – Through Restore the Music UK, the Music Department has been awarded a £10,000 grant to invest in music technology from Amazon. While part of the funding has been used to enhance and update our existing music technology equipment, a proportion has also been allocated to purchasing DJ equipment. This will broaden the range of opportunities available to students through our extra-curricular programme. Over the course of this academic year, the aim is to upskill staff within the department in DJing, developing their confidence and knowledge so that they can effectively teach these skills to students. Once staff training and equipment are in place, we aim to establish a DJ club, providing students with the opportunity to develop their DJing, mixing and music technology skills.
- KS5 – the department aims to promote and enrol students to the music BTEC course at KS5 for the following academic year