



Leigh Academy
BEXLEY

Music Development Plan



LEIGH
Academies Trust

Policy Date: December 2025
Review Date: September 2026



Mission, Vision, Values and Ethos

Our Vision Statement:

At Leigh Academy Bexley, we believe in providing our young people with an extraordinary education; one that unlocks curiosity, ignites ambition and forges a social conscience, enabling our students to have an impact on the world around them. We are proud to be a truly comprehensive academy; an academy where all students are valued, supported and inspired. For students to thrive, we need to ensure that every student and staff member is invested in our community, that everyone is included and respected. As such we place inclusivity at the heart of our decision-making.

Our desire to create an extraordinary academy is built from our core values – Politeness, Kindness, Respect, Courage, Resilience and Ambition. We believe that if our students and staff demonstrate these values, they will be truly extraordinary individuals with the wisdom to make the right choices.

Our Mission:

“Having the wisdom to make the right choices”

Our Values and Ethos:

At Leigh Academy Bexley, our values are the cornerstone of everything we do.

Politeness

Behaviour that is respectful and considerate of other people

Respect

Due regard for the feelings, wishes, or rights of others

Kindness

The quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate

Courage

The ability to do something that frightens one; bravery

Ambition

A strong desire to do or achieve something. Desire and determination to achieve success

Resilience

The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness

Key Aims and Objectives:

- Foster a deep understanding and appreciation of music through a balanced, well-sequenced, and comprehensive curriculum.
- Develop students' musical skills, creativity, and critical thinking in line with the National Curriculum and Key Stage 3 International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) and BTEC Music Practice.
- Encourage lifelong engagement with music, both as performers and informed listeners.
- Provide extra-curricular musical support, and allow students to explore wider opportunities with music. Build links with external music providers and services to further boost enrichment opportunities and cultural capital within the department.

Overview:

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	01/07/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	01/07/2026
Name of the school music lead	Poppy Hildebrand
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Amy Mann
Name of local music hub	Bexley Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

Year 7: Introduction to Music (6 modules across the year):

- Elements of music (Dynamics, Tempo, Pitch, Timbre, Rhythm and Duration)
- The Orchestra
- Reading Notation (Graphic Scores and Ukulele Tabs)
- Folk Music
- Rhythm and Pulse
- African Drumming

Year 8: Intermediate Music Skills (6 modules across the year):

- Video Game Music
- Keyboard Skills Intro
- Form and Structure

- Blues Music
- Jazz Music
- EDM (Electronic Dance Music)

Year 9: Preparing for BTEC (3 modules across the year):

- Film Music
- Songwriting
- Music back in time
- Reggae Music
- Analysing Music
- Music Videos

BTEC Music Practice (Years 10-11):

Core Units:

- Exploring Music Products and Styles: Understanding various music products and styles, and exploring the roles within the music industry.
- Music Skills Development: Developing instrumental/vocal techniques, music theory, and performance skills.
- Responding to a Music Brief: Engaging in a project-based approach to create music in response to a given brief.

Optional Units:

- Music Performance: Solo and ensemble performance skills.
- Music Production: Recording, mixing, and mastering techniques.
- Music Creation: Composition and songwriting.

Assessment:

- Formative assessments through practical performances, compositions, and class participation.
- Summative assessments including written exams, practical exams, and coursework. Regular self-assessment and peer reviews to encourage reflective learning.

Part B: Extra-Curricular Activities:

Future Instrumental Tuition opportunities:

- Aiming to offer individual and small group lessons in various instruments (vocals, drums, piano, guitar, bass guitar, trumpet, saxophone).
- To then track progress and with regular performance opportunities to showcase development.

After School Clubs:

- **Instrumental Ensembles:** For students interested in playing contemporary and classical music in a paired and group setting. Focus on ensemble skills, improvisation, and live performance.
- **Vocal Ensemble:** For students interested in vocal music. Repertoire includes contemporary a cappella, with ambition to expand covering classical choral works and vocal jazz. Emphasis on vocal technique, harmony, and stage presence.
- **Mixed setting:** Offering students the freedom and flexibility to combine vocal and instrumental talent, working towards performing in a supportive setting.
- **Songwriting:** Allowing students to access cross-curricular links between English and Music and apply

these skills towards songwriting and lyricism.

Part C: Musical Experiences:

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

Performance Opportunities:

- School Concerts: Regular concerts at the end of every two modules to showcase student work.
- Annual Creative Arts Showcase: An annual event where students present their musical compositions, performances, and collaborative projects.
- Community Performances: Opportunities to perform at local events, festivals, and community centres as they arise.
- Competitions and Festivals: Participation in regional and national music competitions and festivals as the opportunities arise.

In the Future:

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

- Plans to offer and relaunch the BTEC Music to current Year 9 in academic year 2026.
- Plans to launch an in-house music studio, offering students the opportunity to write, record and release their own music. This will be mostly student-led with roles available for music based applications as well as cross-curricular links with English (lyricism), Art (graphic design, set design), Drama and Media (costume, music video production).
- As students progress, it would be a key objective to introduce and establish Key Stage 5 music as an option for Year 12 and 13 students, allowing a clear path to continue music at university level and beyond.
- Creating links with other Music partners such as recording studios and events spaces to allow real-world experiences with the music department, to increase opportunities for pupils to explore and pursue musical interests inside and outside of school hours.