

Music development plan summary: Camden School for Girls

Music is all around us. It is the soundtrack to our lives. Music connects us through people and places. It is creative, collaborative, challenging and above all, joyous. Music brings all parts of our school community together through the shared endeavour of working together and performing and through the love of listening to friends, family and fellow students. Music feeds the soul of our school community, enriching the lives of all students and strengthening the bonds of trust and support that are the hallmarks of our great school. At Camden School for Girls we are all musicians.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Emily Segal
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Michael Graham
Name of local music hub	Camden Music Services
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

At Camden School for Girls all students at KS3 have a double lesson of music every week (80 minutes) Our music curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum recommended by the government in their National Plan for Music Education. At its core is a belief that all our students are inherently musical and creative. Our curriculum is inclusive and celebrates the diversity of musical creativity and of our school community.

Throughout KS3, teaching and learning is built around:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Performing

Students sing regularly in lessons in repertoire including world music, classical, jazz, and popular music. We sing in unison, rounds and two-, three- and four-part singing.

Our students listen and analyse a broad range of music looking at what choices composers and performers have made and, more importantly, why they might have made these choices. We look at these musical choices through the different lenses of melody, harmony, rhythm, structure, texture, and sonority.

Our students express and develop their creativity through composition in a variety of styles often using music technology and industry standard software to enable all students to be able to achieve their creative ambitions. This creative journey often begins with improvisation before progressing to a more structured and stylistic process.

Students perform regularly in lessons. Through our innovative Band Project, all students have the opportunity to learn a band instrument (keys, bass guitar, guitar, drums and voice) from year 7 to year 9. Skills are sequenced and built upon, beginning with simple 4 chord songs in year 7 to complex GCSE standard songs in year 9. Some students already have advanced facility on their instruments and lessons are used to broaden and advance their skills through sight-reading, improvisation, harmonisation and transposition. Throughout this and other projects, students learn the discipline and joy of playing in an ensemble and what it is to listen and respond to other 'voices', in the creation of a unified whole.

At KS4 we offer Edexcel GCSE music and at KS5 OCR A level.

In partnership with Camden Music Services, hundreds of our students have weekly individual 30 or 45 minute instrumental and/or theory lessons with outstanding visiting instrumental teachers. These cover nearly all instruments from bassoon to electric guitar. Many of our students take instrumental exams such as ABRSM and Trinity.

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.

Alongside the one-to-one instrumental lessons on offer to all our students, CSG runs an extensive and free weekly extracurricular music programme. These include:

- Junior and Senior Choirs

- Junior and Senior String Ensemble
- Junior Jazz Ensemble
- Senior Jazz Big Band
- Symphony Orchestra
- Guitar Ensemble
- Chamber Music
- Music Production

In addition to these ensembles, which are run by the music staff at the school and visiting professional musicians, the music department is open every lunchtime and after school for students to organise their own ensemble rehearsals in the 7 music rooms.

We can loan students instruments either through the school or through Camden Music Services. There is a discount of 50% for pupil premium students and applications can be made for bursaries via the Head of Music.

Camden Music Service runs a huge number of individual lessons and ensembles, with the Senior Saturday Music taking place weekly at our school. We work very closely with Camden Music Services and a large number of our students are an integral part of these ensembles.

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.

At Camden School for Girls we have a large number of regular performance opportunities, both informal and formal. These include:

- December Concert where our various ensembles perform
- Year 7 Concert where all our new year 7 students perform at the end of their first term with us.
- Summer Concert where our various ensembles perform
- School Musical
- Music Assemblies
- Battle of the Bands
- Founder's Day
- GCSE Solo and Ensemble performances
- A level Solo and Ensemble performances
- Open rehearsals half termly for our wider school community to hear work in progress

We take our students to concerts and shows outside of school. This year we are planning trips to hear the Aurora Orchestra, Odyssey Orchestra, LPO, Wicked, ROH

and the LPO. We are also planning our annual Music Tour for 5 days in June to Germany. For all these trips and events, our school always endeavours to support students financially wherever there is need.

We invite professional musicians and composers, as part of our Music Masterclass series, to come into our school and spend time with our students, giving them an invaluable insight into the diverse career opportunities within the creative industries.

In the future

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

Camden School for Girls has a long, distinguished, and proud tradition for music making of the highest standard. Many past students have continued their study of music at conservatoires, gone into the music profession, or continue a lifelong love of listening to and making music.

We are inspired to keep building upon this with an unwavering ambition that every student can find their musical voice and creativity, by offering a diverse and inclusive curriculum and extracurricular programme that ensures that all students have the knowledge and skills to continue their musical studies through into KS4 and 5 and beyond to university or music college.

We are currently focusing on how our provision can be even better with an emphasis on our KS3 curriculum and our partnerships with our local primary schools and Music Hub.

Further information (optional)

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/camdens-music-service>