

Our Vision for Music and Music Development Plan

Music is a universal language which embodies one of the highest forms of creativity and can cross the many divides that we see in the world. We aim to teach our students what it is like to be and feel like a musician.

At The Victory Academy, the overriding ethos for Key Stage 3 is giving students practical experiences and core music understanding to both develop and embrace their creativity and curiosity of the world. Key Stage 4 will centre around the extension of music knowledge through the various routes chosen by the student (Academic, Performance or Technology).

We recognise the importance of cultural capital in the development of the whole child and the role that engagement in music can play in this. For some, KS3 music may be the only opportunity an individual gets to experience music in a practical setting, and it is for that reason that music education at this level should be as high quality as possible. Music education supports a young person's personal development developing a student's self-confidence, creativity, and resilience and this is built into the curriculum.

At The Victory Academy, we are committed to making music an inclusive subject that is accessible and engaging for all students, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and those who speak English as an Additional Language. Our music curriculum is designed to be practical, creative, and adaptable, allowing students to access learning through sound, movement, and visual cues rather than relying solely on written or verbal instruction. We use a range of differentiated strategies, such as scaffolded tasks, visual aids, and multi-sensory learning, to support all learners. Music provides a unique opportunity for non-verbal expression, which can be especially empowering for students who may find communication challenging. We celebrate cultural diversity through our choice of repertoire and world music topics, allowing students to share their own musical backgrounds and experiences. Through careful planning and inclusive practice, we ensure that every student, regardless of need or background, can participate fully and find success in music.

Academic year this summary covers:	Sept 2025 – July 2026
Date this summary was published:	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed:	July 2026
Name of the school music lead:	Name Charlotte Wilson
of School leadership team	
member with responsibility for music:	Carley Dawkins
Name of Local Music Hub:	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisations:	Dynamics

Part A: Curriculum Music

Music lessons aim to be as practical as possible, in line with the goal of teaching students what is it like to be a musician. Students will participate in a range of activities and experiences through a range of musical styles in their timetabled music lessons throughout years 7, 8 and 9.

Students will listen to different pieces of music each term, covering a variety of genres, to broaden their musical horizons as well as develop their cultural awareness as well as analytical and musical appraising skills.

Topics are aimed developing all aspects of performing, composition, and improvisation through a range of music styles. Students will develop their skills using music technology such as use of our dedicated music computer suites and recording studio. Performance skills will be developed on a variety of instruments. Students will have access to rehearsal space throughout the year and the school benefits from multiple music practice rooms equipped for both individual and small group instrument practice.

The music curriculum is sequenced so that students will build on existing knowledge and skills and will develop vocal and/or instrumental fluency, accuracy, and expressiveness.

Music is taught to Year 7 and Year 8 students once a fortnight. Despite the reduced contact time, the curriculum has been carefully sequenced to ensure that pupils experience a broad and balanced range of musical activities. In Year 9, students receive music three times a fortnight. This additional curriculum time allows for deeper engagement and acts as a foundation year for those wishing to progress to Key Stage 4 music.

Year 7 and 8 Curriculum Focus:

- Students learn the core elements of music, including rhythm, pitch, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, and notation.
- They develop basic performance skills on instruments such as keyboards, drums, and ukuleles.
- Singing is integrated into the curriculum to support pitch and listening skills.
- Listening and appraising activities expose students to a wide variety of musical genres, styles, and cultures.
- Composition tasks allow students to apply musical elements creatively, often using both acoustic instruments and digital software.

Year 9 Curriculum Focus:

- Students explore music in greater depth through topics such as song writing, music for film and games, world music, and music technology.
- Emphasis is placed on building independence in performance, composing for specific briefs, and analysing music using musical vocabulary.
- Students are introduced to Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) to compose and arrange music electronically.
- This year provides a bridge between KS3 and KS4, allowing students to make an informed choice about continuing music into their qualifications.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At KS4, students follow the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice. This qualification is practical and skills-focused, supporting a wide range of learners to access music education and develop real-world musical knowledge.

Curriculum Components:

- **Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles** – Students learn about a variety of musical styles and products, completing practical tasks to explore how music is created.
- **Component 2: Music Skills Development** – Students develop their own musical skills in performance, composition, and production, setting personal goals and reflecting on their progress.
- **Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Brief** – This externally assessed unit requires students to plan, develop, and deliver a music product in response to a vocational scenario.

The KS4 course prepares students for further study or music-related careers, equipping them with both technical ability and creative confidence.

Part B: Extra-curricular, co-curricular and clubs for Music:

In addition to the classroom lessons all students across years 7, 8 and 9 receive as part of their curriculum day, we offer extensive co-curricular music opportunities including band, singing, recording studio and show clubs.

The Victory Academy recognises the importance of providing musical opportunities beyond the classroom. Extra-curricular music forms a vital part of our school's cultural offer and supports the development of confidence, teamwork, and artistic expression.

At The Victory Academy, we work in close partnership with Kent Music to provide high-quality peripatetic music lessons in singing, piano, drums, and guitar. These lessons are available to all students and take place during the school day, offering personalised, one-to-one or small group tuition from experienced specialist teachers. Peri lessons not only support the development of instrumental and vocal skills but also boost students' confidence, focus, and self-discipline.

Current Provision Includes:

- **Choir:** Open to all year groups, focusing on group singing, vocal technique, and performance. Repertoire ranges from popular music to musical theatre and world music.
- **Music Technology Club:** This lunchtime club allows students to experiment with music production using BandLab and other DAW software. It appeals especially to those interested in composing and producing music.
- **GCSE/BTEC Support Sessions:** Targeted intervention and enrichment sessions are available for KS4 students to improve coursework and develop practical skills.
- **Band Club:** Band club is open to all year groups, focusing on instrument techniques, understanding instruments, sight reading and performance skills.

These clubs are inclusive and open to all students, regardless of prior experience. They also serve to extend curriculum learning and foster enthusiasm for music.

All Performing Arts clubs, are entirely free for all, taking place in a lunchtime each week with a qualified teacher and skilled musician supporting all students to develop and enjoy music.

Part C: Musical experiences

We believe that meaningful musical experiences can be transformational for young people. At The Victory Academy, we aim to broaden students' musical horizons through performance, partnership, and cultural engagement.

Students can take part in all school opportunities through our clubs and school events including Winter and Summer larger performance events. Instrument and singing students are also able to take part in large events multiple times per year such as performing at our Open Evenings, Celebration assemblies, Victory Birthday and School Shows.

Students will have the opportunity to perform to peers at least once per term within their curriculum lessons, within a variety of styles of music including African Drumming, Blues, Film Music, Orchestral music and singing within film.

Our ultimate goal with music is to ensure all students have an understanding of different genres of music, can be creative and play an instrument, enriching lives through the cultural enrichment, personal development, enjoyment and achievement to be gained through engagement with music.

Students are offered school trips yearly, including ballet, musical theatre, acting and music events which whilst this attracts a cost to parents/ carers, some support is available, so it is advised to contact the school if the cost is seen as a barrier. In addition to this, we are always looking to invite celebrated companies to provide workshops for students and / or perform at the school. Past celebrated performances and workshops include Professor Paws, ICON, RSC, African drummers and Kidenza.

In the future

Looking ahead, The Victory Academy is committed to further strengthening its music provision over the next two years. One key priority is to increase the uptake of music at Key Stage 4 by ensuring a clear and inspiring pathway from Year 9 into formal qualifications.

We also aim to introduce a Music Ambassador Programme, where older students will take on mentoring roles to support extra-curricular clubs and inspire younger pupils. In partnership with Kent Music and local schools, we plan to launch an annual Music Festival to celebrate student creativity and raise the profile of music across the wider community. Additionally, we are developing more tailored enrichment opportunities to support students with high musical potential, including targeted workshops, performance platforms, and further links to post-16 and professional pathways. Through these initiatives, we hope to nurture a vibrant, inclusive, and aspirational musical culture within the school.

Our termly reflections include student feedback from our Music Ambassadors, so we will continue to respond to student feedback and welcome suggestions of additional music events, trips, peripatetic instruments and celebration ideas.

Further information

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 parents / carers can go to for support beyond the school.

JTM Academy are the company that provide The Victory Academy with Peripatetic teachers throughout the year.



Our local music hub, [Kent Music](#), has a local plan for music education in place with additional useful information. Kent Music offer support with lesson payments.

[Medway Tickets Live](#) provide up-to-date information on what music events are available locally.

Another local company that offers music opportunities for local children aged 7 to 18 is [Medway Music Association](#) including many online music technology free online sessions that many of our keen music technology students take up keenly.