

Music Department
Background Information

Facilities

The department is based in a purpose-built Music Suite comprising one spacious classroom, instrument storeroom and three practice rooms. It is situated near the Main Hall, allowing easy access for performances. The Main Hall is equipped with a large stage, grand piano and fantastic tiered seating.

The main Music classroom and two of the Practice Rooms have pianos, including a Roland stage piano for performances.

Classroom resources briefly include:

- keyboards
- IMac workstations running Garageband and Sibelius
- A range of classroom percussion
- Glockenspiels
- Ukuleles (2 class sets)
- Cajons and Congas
- 2 acoustic and 3 electronic drum kits
- A small range of electric and acoustic guitars
- Bass Guitar
- Year 10 GCSE pupils have access to iPads for composing work
- Amplifiers
- A set of orchestral music stands

In addition, there is a team of 10 visiting peripatetic instrument teachers from Entrust Music Service, several of whom have worked at the school for many years. Significant numbers of pupils opt to take instrumental lessons in school, some of whom continue to study GCSE Music into Years 10 and 11.

The school is moving towards greater access to one-to-one iPads allowing for technology to enrich the curriculum and provide wider opportunities for learning.

Staffing

The Head of Department, Alastair Tapley, has been the sole Music Specialist. He is currently supported by two colleagues with some music expertise, who teach some lower school classes. We have extremely supportive Governors and parents who see the value of music on the curriculum and in the wider school community.

Contribution to the life of the school

There is a strong musical tradition at Endon. A large number of pupils have been involved in extra-curricular activities over the years and pupils are keen to take part. A commitment to the extra-curricular life of the Music Department will be essential. Strong practical performing skills will be important and an interest in developing vocal work across the school. Examples of music activities that have taken place are:

- Recital Evening
- Summer and Christmas concerts
- Easter Review- variety show
- Movies and Musicals night
- Residential course for the school orchestra.
- Class Band- after school activity-beginner wind band for younger musicians
- School Orchestra
- School musical
- Music Badge Awards scheme
- Working with a professional conductor
- Manchester Camerata projects

Curriculum

Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups in KS3. Each class is allocated a 100-minute lesson per fortnight. Class sizes vary with the average size being approximately 23 – 26 pupils.

Take-up for GCSE Music varies from year to year with current numbers in Year 10 standing at 20 pupils. All pupils at KS4 have three 100 minute lessons per fortnight.

Results at GCSE are consistently good and we currently following the Eduqas specification. Pupils studying GCSE Music are eligible for subsidised instrument tuition within the lessons programme.

Art, Drama and Music are working towards gaining Artsmark status, a journey we started in 2019. This process was started by the current Head of Music and is something we are passionate about completing by 2023 in celebrating the significant achievements of our pupils in arts education.

A small number of pupils go on to study Music Post 16 and we are proud of the career paths some of our pupils have taken, several of whom have come back into school in subsequent years to inspire the next generation.