

The Subject Curriculum at Five Acres High School

In Music, we learn to perform and create so we can learn how to express ourselves and demonstrate confidence when communicating with an audience.

Intent

Why should all pupils learn this subject?

Music is an integral part of the school curriculum as this subject provides you with an opportunity to develop your creativity and express yourself in a way that a lot of subjects do not allow. Whether you realise it or not, Music is a crucial part of all of our lives, not just a subject you study at school. It can often form part of our identity, whether that is in relation to our interests/hobbies, the people we choose to socialise with, or even as a representation of our cultures.

In terms of being able to perform music, this is where the advantages of the subject play a significant role in your overall development into adulthood and the world beyond Five Acres High School.

Through learning how to play an instrument you are developing your ability to problem-solve, learn new skills, work successfully as part of a team, and of course you are also developing the ability to demonstrate patience and resilience in often high-pressure situations. Within the context of your education, the skills you learn in Music relate directly to each of our core values: Ambition, Confidence, Creativity, Respect, and Determination.

When you are ready to move on from Five Acres High School, being a capable musician is a skill that can open many doors for you. Even if you don't pursue a career in Music, just having those skills mentioned earlier with you at all times will make you far more employable in any field of work, and for those who do want to pursue a career in Music, just look at the opportunities successful musicians are presented with. You could have the chance to travel the world, broaden your horizons, and most importantly spend each day doing something you love. That is just one of the many reasons that makes Music such an incredible subject to study.

What is the core knowledge in this subject?

Core knowledge in Music can be broken down into three key components. The ability to **Perform**, **Create**, and **Listen**.

The knowledge of these three key areas should allow you to develop your fluency, accuracy and expressiveness; and understand musical structures, styles, genres and traditions, identifying the expressive use of musical dimensions. The knowledge you acquire should allow you to listen with increasing discrimination and awareness to inform your practice as a musician. In addition to this, you will develop your ability to use technologies appropriately, and appreciate and understand a wide range of musical contexts and styles.

In Music you will be taught to:

- Play and perform confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using your voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy and expression
- Improvise and compose; and extend and develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres and traditions
- Use relevant notation appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions
- Identify and use the interrelated dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices

- Listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians
- Develop a deepening understanding of the music that you perform and to which you listen, and its history.

Implementation

How is this subject taught at FAHS?

Music is taught at Five Acres High School in a way that allows learners to imbed core knowledge and skill through a practical medium. Your aim is to develop your understanding of the core knowledge mentioned above as well as refine your practical skill on an instrument/voice through your ability to perform as a soloist and ensemble musician in a range of scenarios.

What are the key ways students practise in this subject?

Naturally, the study of Music lends itself well to self-practice. In order to develop as a musician, you need to put in effort to refine your skill over a significant period of time. There are a range of ways in which you can practise the practical skill involved in Music as well as your knowledge of key content, such as developing your understanding of:

Accuracy of pitch/intonation	Rhythm and timing	Technical exercises	Expression and dynamics	Phrasing
Range	Sight reading/singing	Improvisation	Breath control	Confidence
Tuning	Following an accompaniment	Learning repertoire	Musical interaction	Stage presence

Impact

What does assessment look like in this subject?

There are four ways in which we carry out assessment in Music. Some are daily low-stakes means of assessment while others are more formal. Firstly you will receive ongoing regular informal feedback you receive from your teacher. This sort of assessment happens regularly and is embedded into the culture of each lesson. There will also be opportunities in Music to carry out a form of self-assessment through verbal communication and the use of mini whiteboards. In addition to this, another valuable tool within the assessment of Music is the ability to reflect on the work of your peers. The reason we use peer assessment is to provide opportunities for students to receive feedback from someone who is not the teacher who may identify key areas for improvement that others do not consider, but also this process helps develop your own understanding of how to improve within the subject.

In regard to your formal assessment in Music, students will be required to carry out a practical task and/or knowledge tests which will be given an overall percentage based on key marking criteria relating to the unit of work being studied. As part of the summative assessment you will receive an official assessment result and QLA tasks to help you improve any areas that have been identified as potential gaps in your understanding of the core knowledge being assessed.