

MUSIC: INTENT

At Enfield County School for Girls, the core objective of the Music Department, at every Key Stage, is to create informed and active listeners; listeners who have a deeper knowledge of the complexity of both composition and performance through a solid grounding in their own Composition, Listening and Performance skills.

Music is taught in three strands (Composition, Audition and Performance) where the musical elements are “caught before taught”; students learn to perform, compose and hear the musical concept before the musical literacy is finally introduced. All Key Stages build and grow from what has come before, for example, the advanced musical concepts taught in the Key Stage 5 module *Jazz: From 1910 to the Present Day*, has its roots in the Key Stage 3 *Gospel* and *12-Bar Blues* units, which is further developed in Key Stage 4’s *Conventions of Pop Area of Study*, before finally culminating in the complex structures, harmonies and social history of 20th Century Jazz. Key Stage 4 and 5 Composition builds on the pentatonic composition, chordal harmony, a cappella arranging skills studied at Key Stage 3.

However, the intention of the Music Department is not only to provide a curriculum that leads from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and beyond, but also to provide all students, regardless of whether they choose further study in the subject, with an informed appreciation of a wide selection of musical styles. Limiting our conversations to “I like that music” or, “I don’t like that music” takes away the secondary enjoyment of discussing and comparing our musical tastes. “I like that music because...” is infinitely more satisfying, and allows the listener to become an active participant in the music, rather than being a passive observer. All music students graduate from Key Stage 3 with a greater awareness of their own musical tastes, but also with an introduction to a wide range of styles and genres of music.

Although private one-to-one instrumental tuition is offered at our school through Enfield Music Service, music students at Enfield County School for Girls do not need expensive private instrumental lessons outside of the school to access our curriculum at any Key Stage. Key Stage 3 music lessons teach performance skills in barred instruments, keyboards, ukulele and guitars, and our extensive extra-curricular programme (Orchestra, Jazz Band, Recorder Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, Ukulele Club, Key Stage 3 Choir, KS3 Chamber Choir, KS4 Chamber Choir, Staff Choir) offers ample opportunities for students to further develop their interests in a wide range of musical styles. We also offer free instrumental tuition for targeted Pupil Premium students, which has been enthusiastically taken up by many deserving students.

Music is highly valued here at Enfield County School for Girls, and this is reflected in the healthy numbers that choose Music both at GCSE and A-Level. This is also reflected in the many school functions where the Music Department are invited to showcase their talents and represent the very best of our school. Our students demonstrate the Enfield County School for Girls School Values of Respect, Responsibility, Equality of Opportunity, Co-operation and Generosity of Spirit in all of their performances, whether it is demonstrating their group collaborations at Key Stage 3, or participating in performances in the wider school community and beyond.