Music Development Plan Summary: Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	01/09/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	01/07/27
Name of the school music lead	Josiah McAteer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	C Seager
Name of local music hub	Services For Education
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 Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School, all KS3 students receive one hour of Music per week, with lessons structured according to the National Curriculum. In designing the Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Music curriculum, the Model Music Curriculum has been taken into consideration alongside the National Curriculum.

During lessons, students regularly participate in singing and have access to keyboards. Additionally, they are provided opportunities to play ukuleles, guitars, drum kits, djembes, and a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments. Students explore a wide range of musical genres, spanning from Medieval to Contemporary, as well as diverse World Music traditions. They also study 20th and 21st-century popular music genres, including Blues, Jazz, Rock, Reggae, Ska, and Pop.

At KS4, students follow the Edexcel BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice. Music-specific technology and software are available alongside peripatetic lessons to ensure students can fully engage with the course.

Peripatetic lessons at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School are provided by Birmingham Services for Education, offering students the opportunity to receive specialised instruction on a variety of instruments. These lessons enable students to work towards completing instrumental grade exams. When students achieve these qualifications, they are encouraged to share their results, allowing the school to celebrate their achievements and provide recognition for their musical progress.

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.

Alternative titles for Part B could be ‘Extra-curricular music’ or ‘Music tuition, choirs and ensembles’.

Peripatetic lessons are available through Birmingham Services For Education, offered either individually or in small groups. These lessons are financed by the school, with scheduling determined based on demand. Currently, the school has teachers for keyboard, drums, and guitar, with plans to allocate additional instructors as interest grows.

The School of Rock club at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School meets every Wednesday after school for 1 hour, providing an exciting and inclusive environment for students passionate about popular music. This vibrant extracurricular group is designed for students of all skill levels, from beginners to more experienced musicians.

During these sessions, students come together to form bands and rehearse popular songs. The group emphasises teamwork and creativity, encouraging students to express themselves through music. Participants also can learn essential skills in performance, arrangement, and improvisation, helping them to build confidence in their musical abilities.

In addition to regular rehearsals, the School of Rock group organises showcases and performances throughout the school year. These events allow students to demonstrate their hard work and talent to their peers, friends, and family, fostering a sense of community and pride within the school. Whether students are interested in playing

instruments, singing, or even leading the band, anyone from both KS3 & KS4 is welcome to join and contribute to the dynamic atmosphere of this exciting group.

Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School has a successful and energetic choir, which is open to all year groups without audition. This group meets for 1 hour every Wednesday, with additional rehearsals scheduled leading up to performances. The choir is led by Mrs Pugh and regularly performs throughout the year with community outreach performances scheduled.

At Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School, breaktime rehearsals provide an excellent opportunity for students to hone their musical skills and prepare for upcoming performances. Offshoot bands from the School of Rock practise at breaktimes to develop their skills together as an ensemble.

During these informal rehearsals, students can gather in supervised practice spaces equipped with various instruments and resources. This setting encourages collaboration, as musicians can come together to refine their pieces, explore new arrangements, and develop their confidence in a supportive environment. Whether working on individual parts for choir or the School of Rock, students have the chance to practice in a low-pressure atmosphere.

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.

Alternative titles for Part C could be ‘Musical events’ or ‘Musical performances’.

Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School Performance Events 2025-26:

Macmillan Coffee Morning (Year 7 pupils and parents) (23rd September 2025)

Mince Pies and Carols Charity Event morning 9.10-10.20am (1st December 2025)

DEC Christmas Concert (WinterFest) 5.30pm (11th December 2025)

Matrix Trust Performing Arts Showcase – (25th February 2026)

DECS GOT TALENT 5.30pm (24th March 2026)

Matrix Trust Student Awards Evening – Millennium Point (15th May 2026)

DEC Summer concert 5.30pm (SummerFest) (25th June 2026)

Matrix Sports Day (8th July 2026)

In the future

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

- To grow the musical culture within the school and develop the musical concerts and events.
- To grow the number of students taking instrumental and vocal lessons through Services For Education.
- To grow KS4 provision for pupils in our school.
- To develop the music facilities/equipment at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School.
- To host a ‘Battle of the Bands’ Matrix Academy Trust event, where bands compete for the title of ‘Best School Band in the Trust’.
- To arrange a Year 7 visit to Birmingham Symphony Hall to watch a concert.
- To liaise with outside companies (E.g. Rocksteady and Someone at the Door Samba Band) and arrange for external concerts/workshops.