

# Music development plan summary: Torquay Girls' Grammar School

## Overview

| Detail   | Information     |
|--|-----------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers   | 2024-2025       |
| Date this summary was published  | September 2024  |
| Date this summary will be reviewed   | March 2025      |
| Name of the school music lead  | Naomi Hagland   |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Helen Wilkinson |
| Name of local music hub  | Devon Music Hub |

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

Torquay Girls' Grammar School delivers a broad Music Curriculum for Key Stage 3 and 4. Music at Key Stage 3 comprises of 1 hour of Music per week, taught in classes of up to 33. KS4 GCSE students benefit from 5 hours of Music across a fortnight.

Students are assessed at 3 points over the duration of the year, which incorporates performing, composing and listening components.

Music is taught to all students in Key Stage Three. As a performing art, a great deal of emphasis is placed on the practical aspects but these skills are underpinned by knowledge about the subject. Activities in lessons include composing, performing, arranging, vocal and instrumental improvisation, listening and appraising. This approach continues at Key Stage Four (following the AQA syllabus).

### **SMSC**

Self-reflection and evaluation process, reflecting on personal musical preferences, confidence-building through performance, effective discussion around team work and respectful expectations of audiences, music groups that mix year groups and vary

social interactions, tolerance and respect shown through mixed ability groups, historical music eras and other cultural events explored (e.g. Black History Month).

### **British Values**

Composition tasks allowing students to develop independence, think for themselves, and make their own choices based on personal preference – understanding that this will not be everyone else's interest/taste. Teaching the rule of law through playing games with rules. Celebrating a range of calendar events to teach tolerance and mutual respect. Covering controversial topics like the slave trade when looking at the blues.

### **Reading**

Reading traditional notation.

### **Oracy**

Key music terminology.

### **Careers**

Trips to see working musicians in professional orchestra.

### **Character skills**

Lead learner roles within music – those who are experienced musicians are used to demonstrate and share expertise within the classroom. Sixth form students who are active within the music department often lead music groups.

Group performance and composition activities, as well as mixed ability/year group ensembles provide team building skills. Performance opportunities allow students to develop self-esteem and confidence.

The curriculum covers a wide range of musical styles, encouraging students to work creatively through challenging material. Aural skills are developed through listening and appraising a variety of pieces of music.

## **Part B: Co-curricular music**

Many students learn a musical instrument in private lessons delivered by specialist teachers. Lessons are offered on a weekly basis, for 30 minutes. This can vary depending on student/parent requirements and we are flexible with requests. Lessons cost £16.50 per half hour and, for students who are eligible for Free School Meals, this is subsidised by 50%.

All students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of extra curricular clubs, including the school orchestra, choirs and smaller chamber ensembles. There are regular performance opportunities both in and out of school, including our annual Carol

Service, Torbay Music Festival, Summer Concert and inter-house opportunities such as the Year 7 Concert and the House Music competition.

Extra curricular opportunities are open to all students, with some ensembles more suitable for advanced musicians. Some opportunities are offered on an audition basis, to offer progression within groups.

The music department is well-equipped with plenty of practice rooms, giving students separate spaces to rehearse.

## Part C: Musical experiences

Annually, we hold a Year 7 Concert, Carol Service and Summer Concert. We are also involved in Torbay Music Festival, with many of our soloist and ensembles participating in the competition. We support a local church (St. John's Church) through our annual Carol Service. Concerts include a range of performances from ensembles and soloists, showcasing a varied repertoire. Students are offered regular performing opportunities during our school events (e.g. Open Evenings and school tours).

Our concerts help to support charities through collections and refreshment sales. We support Imprezza (our partner school in Kenya), as well as our local hospital League of Friends through our school's Junior League of Friends refreshment sales. Ticket sales are charged at a nominal fee which goes towards vital maintenance and equipment for the music department.

We also work with Devon Music Hub, to offer students experiences that further their learning. We regularly attend the KS4 Set Works Live – performed and analysed by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, bringing important exam content to life.

## In the future

- We are building stronger links with primary schools in our area by inviting them to concert previews and music workshops.
- We aim to incorporate more WCET to boost numbers in some instrumental areas.