

Music development plan summary: Isca Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	25/26
Date this summary was published	04/02/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	04/02/2027
Name of the school music lead	Shaniah Archer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Tasmin Reed
Name of local music hub	Devon Music Education Hub
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 students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' 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 students can achieve.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8): Students receive one timetabled lesson of music per week and study a variety of topics, including instrumental skills, music production skills and world music.

Isca's music lessons are designed to give students as much hands-on practical, music making experience as possible, with a range of instruments and digital software. The focus of our curriculum at Key Stage 3 is to develop students' performance, composition, appraisal and production skills.

The curriculum at Isca gives students a foundation in keyboard skills but also allows students to explore guitar, bass guitar, percussion and voice. The music room is equipped with 20 iMacs, each running Garage Band and Logic Pro X which enables students to experience production software.

Students are able to choose music during year 9 as part of their options process.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9,10 and 11): Students receive two timetabled lessons of music per week, usually a 2 hour double lesson. We currently offer the BTEC level 1/2 Award in Music Practice. The school is supported by Devon Music Education Hub. The Devon Music Education Hub can loan class sets of instruments, give the school a yearly music education grant, give instrumental lesson bursaries and provide teacher CPD. They are also able to loan individual students instruments for a small fee.

As part of the BTEC course, students complete 2 components in Year 10 and 1 in Year 11, this allows Year 11 to complete the majority of their course in Year 10 so they can resubmit coursework in Year 11 if required.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for students to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how students can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

At Isca we offer a wide variety of instrumental lessons outside of normal lesson time. These lessons are taught by a team of visiting instrumental teachers. We are currently able to offer:

- Electric and Acoustic Guitar
- Piano/Keyboard
- Drum Kit
- Various Woodwind instruments
- Various Brass instruments

Financial support is available for disadvantaged students through the local music hub or at the discretion of the music department, please get in touch if you need support.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- **School Choir:** The music room is open for individual practice, group rehearsal and use of music production software during set break times.
- **School Productions:** Students are encouraged to participate in singing opportunities during school performances, the Winter Gala and the Isca Fringe Festival. Students participating in extra-curricular sessions are also invited to perform in external locations, such as local residential homes.

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.

Our main musical events in the Isca Calendar are:

- Winter Gala (Autumn Term)
- School Production (Spring Term)
- Isca Fringe Festival (Summer Term)

All events are free for students and open to all year groups. Additional opportunities, such as performances for external events like the Ted Wragg Trust Governor's Meeting, are pursued whenever possible.

In the future

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

- **Curriculum Enhancements:** Strengthen Key Stage 3 by embedding musical terminology and notation earlier, ensuring a smooth transition to the BTEC course in Key Stage 4.
- Develop the KS3 Year 9 curriculum ready for Government curriculum changes.
- **Expanding Singing Opportunities:** Increase participation in school choir and the Isca Fringe Festival.
- **Career and Further Education Pathways:** Ensure the BTEC course fully prepares students for college-level music courses and potential careers in the music industry.
- **External Partnerships:** Continue working with Devon Music Hub and seek additional collaborations to enhance musical experiences for students.