



# Music & Music Technology Curriculum

---

*“Music is an explosive expression of humanity. It’s something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we’re from, everyone loves music.” Billy Joel*

## Key Stage 3

Music is taught to Key Stage 3 three lessons a fortnight. In Year 8 and Year 9, one of these lessons is a discreet Music Technology lesson. Students follow a programme of study that focuses on the key skills of performing, composing, listening and appraising music. It is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum and incorporates music from a wide range of styles, cultures and historical periods. Students are encouraged to develop their musical creativity through a range of practical activities which illustrate originality, imagination and the ability to develop and improve their work. These activities also allow them to develop and refine their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of various genres of music. Students will use a range of instruments throughout Key Stage 3 including keyboard, guitar, ukulele, various percussion instruments, and voice. Music Technology is used to enhance and facilitate learning and the students will learn to sequence MIDI, capture and process audio, as well as mixing skills on a range of software.

## Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 the students follow the AQA GCSE Music syllabus (4270):  
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-4270/spec-at-a-glance>.

GCSE Music provides students with the opportunity to study both classical, popular and world music genres, looking not only at the integral elements of each type of music, but also providing an awareness and understanding of the social, cultural and traditions of each genre and style. The course allows students to develop their skills in composition, performing and the use and application of specific musical technology. GCSE Music enables students to extend existing skills in music as well as widen their appreciation of different musical traditions and to see where it is relevant in today’s wide and varied music industry.

The main learning strands for GCSE Music are:

- Popular Music in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries
- World Music
- The Western Classical Tradition

We also will be offering Music Technology as an option for our Key Stage 4 students for September 2015. This will be the Edexcel BTEC Music Course but only the Music Technology options will be offered. Students will be able to take one option only from either Music GCSE or BTEC Music Technology.



## Key Stage 5

As before, Music and Music Technology are offered in Key Stage 5. A Level Music follows the WJEC syllabus: <http://www.wjec.co.uk/uploads/publications/3416.pdf> and Music Technology is offered through Edexcel: [https://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/GCE%20New%20GCE/UA035246\\_GCE\\_Lin\\_MusicTec\\_Issue\\_3.pdf](https://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/GCE%20New%20GCE/UA035246_GCE_Lin_MusicTec_Issue_3.pdf).

A Level music continues to develop and build on the skills and knowledge acquired in Key Stage 3 and 4, and students are encouraged to build on their existing strengths as well as explore and challenge their existing musical views and ideas. There are three elements to the course which are Performing (a final recital examined by a visiting examiner), Composing (a portfolio of two pieces) and 2 Listening and Appraising examinations. The topics will link to the Western Classical Tradition from Baroque to the present day, as well as Rock, Pop and Jazz.

In Music Technology A Level students will learn and use a variety of music and music technology skills. MIDI sequencing skills, multi-track recording and arranging skills are all assessed in the practical tasks. There will also be listening and production exams as part of this course.

**Subject Leader for Music:** Miss Debbie Betts

**Subject Leader for Music Technology:** Mr James Hadden

**Department Website:** <http://music.stwilfrids.com/>