THE URSULINE ACADEMY ILFORD



MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

"In the spirit of St. Angela, we nurture creativity and harmony through music to uplift hearts and minds."







Focus Area 1: Curriculum

The music curriculum is at least as ambitious as the national curriculum. Curriculum sequencing is clear.

Good progress is demonstrated by secure and incremental learning of the technical, constructive, and expressive aspects of music, developing musical understanding.

Pupils with additional needs can participate and progress well

(supported by technology, tools and adapted instruments).

Space and resources allow breadth of curriculum for all students, including music technology.

Our Curriculum best fit is: In line with the National Curriculum for Music and builds upon the Model Music Curriculum and vision of the National Plan for Music Education (2022). An inclusive and diverse music curriculum that takes student voice and musical interests into consideration. A suitably challenging curriculum that encompasses music theory, performance, composing, listening and appraising. The Music curriculum encapsulates the Academy's ethos of encouraging each student to 'Belong, Believe, Become' and embeds the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

- The existing curriculum develops musical skills throughout KS3.
- The existing curriculum sufficiently prepares students for the further study of music at KS4.
- The music curriculum is under review for September 2025
- The revised curriculum will be a spiral curriculum that develops musical skills, expanding students' musical ability in all areas and revisiting common themes in preparation for the end of Year 9 and beyond.
- Students will be introduced to composing software, with a focus on staff notation and music sampling at KS3 (Sibelius and BandLab)
- KS3 music will focus on the key areas of performance, composing, listening and appraising and will develop students' ability to create and expand upon original musical ideas both individually and in small groups
- The curriculum will continue to encourage singing in all key stages. Students sing in a range of genres, inclusive of the schools'
- Students in KS4 complete the OCR GCSE Music, covering 5 areas of study: AoS1 My Music; AoS2 The Concerto Through Time; AoS3 Rhythms of the World; AoS4 Film Music; AoS5 Conventions of Pop.
- In KS4, students studying GCSE Music have regular performance opportunities and develop their compositional skills further, devising a range of shorter compositions in Year 10 and 2 full compositions in Year 11.





Focus Area 2: Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and Ensembles

Singing and vocal work is embedded into the life of the school and into every child's experience, drawing on a wide range of high-quality, age-appropriate repertoire and developing musicianship. All staff in the school can support singing.

Music performance is a prominent component of school life from an early age; music is performed in assemblies and events such as sports day and open evenings alongside in-school events.

The overall provision is diverse, valuing all musical styles, genres and traditions equally; this is reflected in the clubs and enrichment programme and drawing on the skills, talents and interests of staff and local stakeholders through specialist tuition. A large proportion of students are involved.

Our Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and Ensembles best fit is: All students who wish to learn and instrument, sing or participate in a school ensemble can do so, throughout the academic year.

Curriculum music Instrumental and vocal lessons and ensembles Musical events and opportunities

- All students can opt into instrumental lessons which are delivered by specialist instrumental and vocal tutors, individually or in pairs. These lessons are available at an agreed rate for 20-minutes or 30-minutes and our Pupil Premium students may also apply for our Bursary Scheme.
- Several instrumental ensembles run across the week including guitar club; ukulele club; string group; KS4 choir; KS3 choir; Worship Band.
- Students who learn via Redbridge Music Service (ELMA) also can perform regularly with their respective RMS ensemble.
- All students sing weekly during the Academy year group assemblies.
- Students sing during Mass on Feast Days.
- All students in KS3 and KS4 sing regularly as a class, in smaller groups and individually as part of the music curriculum.
- The Worship Band perform 4 days a week in the Academy year group assemblies.
- Ensembles and soloists can perform in front of an audience multiple times throughout the academic year, including and not limited to: Christmas concert; Summer concert; Mass; Year Group assemblies; Arts Bestival; School Production; Easter Production; Informal Concerts and Sharing Sessions.





Focus Area 3: Musical Events and Opportunities

Engagement with the East London Music Alliance (ELMA) & Redbridge Music Service is limited.

Small-scale performance takes place in the community, building on existing school links.

Some parents and carers support music-making in the school by attending events.

Our Musical Events and Opportunities best fit is Students perform regularly in a range of Academy events. Students can perform in local and city-wide venues working alongside partners of East London Music Alliance (ELMA) and Redbridge Music Service.

- The Worship Band perform 4 days a week in the Academy year group assemblies.
- Ensembles and soloists can perform in front of an audience multiple times throughout the academic year, including and not limited to: Christmas concert; Summer concert; Mass; Year Group assemblies; Arts Bestival; School Production; Easter Production; Informal Concerts and Sharing Sessions.