

Music development plan summary: Folkestone School For Girls

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	1 September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	15 May 2026
Name of the school music lead	Katrina Livingston
Name of local music hub	Kent Music

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: Music Curriculum

At FSG, Music is viewed as a vitally important part of the broader curriculum. It provides opportunities for our students to share their emotions, solve problems, collaborate effectively and think outside the box. Being part of a cast, choir, ensemble, orchestra, band requires commitment, teamwork. It develops self-confidence and, put simply, can allow us all to grow and flourish in other arenas; another opportunity to 'find your thing' and to 'find your tribe'. Through the study of a carefully designed curriculum students develop self-confidence, resilience and social skills through truly musical discourse.

The **Model Music Curriculum**, a non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1-3, sets out a comprehensive learning sequence which outlines the skills students should be able to demonstrate. This includes opportunities to perform with an emphasis on singing, composing their own music in a variety of styles, an understanding and appreciation of musical styles across cultures and the ability to read and write staff notation. At FSG, students complete their learning at Key Stage 3 and, in line with the MMC have achieved and are able to demonstrate the following:

1 Performing:

- Year 7 Vocal Concert in Term 1
- Created a band in class and developed ensemble skills
- Learnt basic skills on bass guitar, ukulele, and drums (including Samba)

- Mastered basic keyboard skills with a knowledge of the layout of the piano, hand position and correct fingerings, chord patterns (with inversions) and effective posture.

2 Composing

- A class song to be performed at the Year 7 Vocal Concert
- A Pop music mash-up
- Melodic and rhythmic variations of the melody from Canon, Pachelbel written in staff notation.
- A traditional Samba piece
- Blues song with a focus on writing lyrics and melodic composition.
- A classical melody with drone and ostinato accompaniments written in staff notation.

3 Appraising (listening)

- Western Classical Tradition including Mozart's Eine Kleine Nacht Musik, Beethoven's Ode to Joy, Pachelbel's Canon and Purcell's Dido and Aeneas.
- Blues and Jazz taught within the context of the history of slavery.
- Popular Music with its roots in Blues.
- Folk Music from across the world.

Musical Partnerships

FSG works closely with Kent Music to enhance the performing opportunities for our students. Music funding is available for those interested in learning to play an instrument and ensembles in school such as FSG Rock Band and **all students** in receipt of pupil premium have the option to learn an instrument at no cost. Last year, instrumentalists enjoyed a Build a Band day at the Harvey Grammar School where they performed a variety of orchestral music with Shepway Schools. The success of this initiative and the breadth and depth of talent that was demonstrated, has prompted an opportunity for a joint orchestra (Harvey Grammar and FSG) performing at the FSG Remembrance Service.

Kent Music offers a comprehensive program of CPD opportunities for Music teachers and subject leaders ensuring that teaching and learning in the Music classroom is current and progressive. The Music Department staff meet regularly to share good practice and develop our skills and knowledge.

Musical Qualifications

Students can choose to further their musical journey by opting to study GCSE Music. For more information on the curriculum and boards, please click on the link below:

<https://www.folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk/what-we-do-and-why-we-do-it/curriculum/music/>

Part B: Extra-curricular Music

Instrumental Tuition

We have a team of highly experienced peripatetic teachers who offer instrumental lessons in the following instruments:

- piano
- voice (classical, popular and musical theatre)
- guitar (bass, electric and acoustic)
- flute
- clarinet
- saxophone (soprano, alto, tenor and baritone)
- trumpet
- French horn
- trombone
- tenor horn, baritone horn
- euphonium
- tuba
- violin
- viola
- cello
- double bass
- drum kit and percussion including timpani

Bands and Ensembles

We provide an extensive extra-curricular program where students can develop their musicianship skills outside the classroom. All ensembles are free to join. The bands and ensembles that rehearse and perform regularly are:

- Pop Choir
- Chamber Choir
- A cappella Choir, Accolettes
- Show Choir
- CCF Drum Corp
- Snare Ensemble
- Rock Band (Year 7 and 8)
- Junior Orchestra
- Senior Orchestra
- Jazz Ensemble
- Bubble Band

If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument, you can complete an online application form by clicking on the link below. Here, you can also read about our own Music Trust and Kent Music which can help with the cost of instrumental lessons and hire of instruments.

<https://www.folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk/parents-and-students/extra-curricular-clubs-and-opportunities/music/>

The Music Department at FSG has a number of teaching and rehearsal rooms. Students can book these at break and lunchtime to practise individually or in bands.

Students' performing experience in the classroom often leads to an interest in learning an instrument and/or starting their own band. Myself and Mr Nunn can help with setting this up.

Part B: Concerts, Events and Trips

Musical Experiences 2025/2026

There is a full and varied program which enriches student's experience of music.

Autumn Term:

- Year 7 Vocal Concert
- Remembrance Parade
- Build a Band Day at Harvey Grammar
- Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church
- Mince Pie Show
- Music Department Christmas Concert
- Accolletes performance at Christmas Fair, Sandgate.

Spring Term:

- Orchestra Day at FSG (tbc)
- Marlowe Theatre: Philharmonia Orchestra Trip, Marin Alsop conducts Scheherazade, Wednesday 11 March.
- GCSE Music Performance
- International Women's Day Assembly
- Vocal Concert in April

Summer Term:

- Year 6 Transition Day
- Musical Theatre Week; each year the school puts on a 'big school production' with Annie, The Addams Family, Legally Blonde, Made in Dagenham and We Will Rock You, all recent productions. **In 2006, FSG will be staging a production of Come From Away.** All students are involved across all areas of production, including a live orchestra to accompany those on stage.

As is evident there is an ever increasing, myriad of opportunities for students to perform throughout the year - and this marries with the ethos, vision and curriculum of the wider school and its FSGBacc programme for Personal Development & Character Education.

In the future:

1. We have proposed that Harvey Grammar Orchestra will join us to perform at the Remembrance Service with a view to strengthening ties in the future and creating opportunities for performances throughout the school calendar.
2. A new opportunity to invite performers to showcase their talent at lunchtime open mic sessions.

The school is lucky to enjoy excellent resources including a radio station and even a music recording studio - and we would like to increase the opportunities for students to record and perform via these more intimate routes - a sort of 'live lounge' option for those who perhaps aren't quite confident enough (yet) to perform on stage.

As an international school too, we'd also like to work with students from our partner schools to compose and create on an international stage through technology.