

Music development plan summary: Saint Aidan's Church of England High School

Dear reader,

This document outlines the Music Development Plan for Saint Aidan's Church of England High School for the academic year 2024-2025. This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students across curricular and extra-curricular music, and the wider musical life of the school. This information is to help students, parents and carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' music education.

I am proud to lead the Music Department at Saint Aidan's, and to work with our music team and all our students to build a life-long love of music.

Should you have any questions after reading this summary, please feel free to email me at phil-dalton@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk

Phil Dalton

Subject Lead for Music

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	2024-11
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr P. Dalton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr A. Lord
Name of local music hub	Lancashire Music Service

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 pupils can achieve.

Saint Aidan's offers a comprehensive and engaging program aligned with the National Plan for Music Education, ensuring students receive a broad musical education. At Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9), students have 1 hour of music per week, focusing on a wide variety of musical experiences. The curriculum introduces students to both orchestral and pop instruments and voices, along with access to music technology through a suite of computers, enabling them to create music using the latest digital tools. The curriculum is shaped by both the Model Music Curriculum and the informal learning pedagogy developed by the Musical Futures program.

In year 7 students primarily engage in whole class ensemble teaching, providing a collaborative learning environment and hands-on experience with a range of instruments and technologies. When students progress to years 8 and 9, they have opportunities to work more independently in small groups, fostering creativity and peer-led learning. Our curriculum is a spiral model, revisiting skills and knowledge in different contexts, to build upon and embed understanding.

An overview of the topics delivered in the Key Stage 3 music curriculum can be viewed [here](#).

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11), students can pursue the Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts (Music Pathway), accredited by the WJEC/Eduqas exam board. This course offers 2.5 hours of music per week, averaged over the two years, giving students a deeper understanding of music performance and creation, whilst also focusing on event production and performing arts industry roles. The course equips students with practical skills and knowledge to further develop their musical talents and prepare for future studies or careers in music or associated performing arts industries.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

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

Saint Aidan's offers a rich array of extra-curricular music opportunities that support and enhance students' musical development outside of regular lessons. These opportunities include individual lessons, ensembles, and clubs that cater to a variety of musical interests and skill levels.

Instrumental Lessons and Ensembles

Individual or small group lessons are available on a wide range of instruments, including guitar, bass guitar, piano/keyboard, drums and voice. The school subsidises

the cost of these lessons, and in some cases may be able to fully cover the cost for those eligible for the Pupil Premium.

The school collaborates with the Lancashire Music Service hub to offer brass and woodwind ensembles. In addition to ensemble participation, students can also access individual or small group lessons for brass and woodwind instruments.

These lessons and ensembles take place after school on weekdays, providing flexible opportunities for students to further develop their musical skills in a supportive setting.

Singing Opportunities

The school runs two lunchtime singing clubs:

Choir: Open to all students, the choir provides a more structured singing experience and is ideal for students interested in group performances.

Karaoke Club: A fun and informal club where students can sing popular songs in a relaxed atmosphere, helping them build confidence and express themselves creatively.

All students are encouraged to join these clubs to experience the joy of singing and improve their vocal abilities in a social, enjoyable environment.

Worship Band

The school's Worship Band plays an important role in supporting the school's Christian ethos. The band rehearses weekly and performs during termly Eucharist services, offering students the chance to contribute musically to the school's religious and community events.

Students also access the music facilities regularly for mentoring sessions during lunchtimes when preparing for upcoming concerts.

Together, these extra-curricular music opportunities provide students with diverse ways to engage with music, develop their talents, and participate in the school's vibrant musical community.

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.

The school offers a dynamic range of musical events and experiences that give students the opportunity to showcase their talents and perform in front of an audience, both within the school and in the wider community.

Termly Evening Concerts

Each term, the school hosts an evening concert where students from all year groups have the chance to perform. These concerts feature a variety of musical acts, including solo performances and group ensembles, highlighting the diverse talents of the students. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend, creating a supportive and celebratory atmosphere. These events are a highlight of the school calendar, providing students with valuable performance experience and the chance to share their musical achievements with loved ones.

Musical Performances in Worship Assemblies

Music is an integral part of the school's spiritual life, and students often have the opportunity to perform in worship assemblies. These performances, which may include the school's Worship Band and individual musicians, enrich the religious services and help foster a reflective and uplifting environment. Through these assemblies, students contribute musically to the school's Christian ethos, deepening their connection to both music and faith.

A Celebration of Music at The Blackpool Opera House

The school participates in the annual A Celebration of Music, an event for Fylde and Wyre schools, held at the iconic Blackpool Opera House each March. This large-scale event brings together talented musicians from across the region to perform in a grand setting, giving students a unique and exciting opportunity to perform in a professional venue. Participation in this event allows students to experience the thrill of performing on a big stage and to connect with a wider musical community beyond the school.

These events not only showcase students' hard work and musical growth but also build their confidence, performance skills, and sense of community.

In the future

This section is about plans for future development.

Saint Aidan's is committed to expanding and enhancing its offerings to meet the growing demand and interest in music among students. Several key improvements are planned to enrich the musical experience for students and further develop their skills and performance opportunities.

Ongoing Development and Review Process

The school music department is dedicated to maintaining and developing its high-quality music provision, ensuring that all students have access to a broad, balanced, and inclusive musical education. The department is committed to regularly reviewing and refining the music curriculum to ensure it meets the diverse needs of its students while staying aligned with the National Plan for Music Education (NPME) and any subsequent updates or recommendations.

- The curriculum will be continually evaluated and updated to reflect the latest educational guidance, best practices, and student interests, ensuring that it remains engaging, relevant, and inclusive.
- The department will work to ensure that the curriculum provides opportunities for students to explore a wide range of musical styles, instruments, and technologies, fostering creativity and broadening students' musical experiences.
- Through regular feedback from students, staff, and external partners such as the Lancashire Music Service hub, the department will assess its effectiveness in delivering high-quality music education and make any necessary adjustments.
- The school will ensure that its music provision reflects the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring all students, regardless of background or ability, have the chance to develop their musical skills and appreciation.

Alignment with the National Plan for Music Education:

- The department will continue to prioritise the key aims of the NPME, ensuring that students have access to both performance opportunities and music technology, with pathways for progression both inside and outside of school.
- As the NPME is updated, the school will integrate new initiatives and priorities into the music curriculum, such as further expanding opportunities for instrumental lessons, singing, and participation in musical ensembles.

By committing to regular self-assessment and external collaboration, the school music department will ensure its provision stays at the forefront of music education, giving all students the opportunity to succeed and flourish in their musical journey.

Expansion of Termly Evening Concerts

Due to increasing student participation and a high demand for performance opportunities, the school plans to increase the number of evening concerts from one to two each term. These concerts will be held on consecutive days and will be split by key stage:

- One concert will feature Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) performances, showcasing the talents of younger students, including class ensembles and individual performances.

- The second concert will highlight Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11), focusing on more advanced student performances and group ensembles.

This change will provide ample stage time for all students who wish to perform and allow for a more tailored and focused program for each key stage, ensuring all performers receive the recognition and audience attention they deserve.

Strengthening Links with the Lancashire Music Service Hub

The school plans to further strengthen its partnership with the Lancashire Music Service hub, aiming to increase the range and availability of instrumental lessons and ensemble opportunities. By expanding this collaboration, the school hopes to:

- Offer a wider selection of instruments for individual and small group lessons, including more opportunities for brass, woodwind, and string instruments.
- Enhance ensemble provision, allowing more students to participate in group music-making experiences, such as orchestras, brass bands, and other instrumental groups.

This strengthened link will give students greater access to specialist instrumental tuition and more frequent opportunities to perform in ensembles, boosting both their technical skills and enjoyment of music.

External Visits to Music Performances

To further inspire students and broaden their musical horizons, the school plans to introduce external visits to live music performances or concerts. These trips would give students the opportunity to experience professional music performances in various genres and settings, from orchestral concerts to contemporary music events. This will help students to gain insight into live music production and performance techniques, enriching their understanding of the music industry.

This initiative aims to expose students to a wide range of musical experiences outside the classroom, sparking new ideas, creativity, and ambition in their own musical journeys.

These future improvements will ensure the music department continues to thrive, offering enhanced opportunities for all students to develop their skills, experience live music, and perform in a variety of settings

Further Information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

The Lancashire Music Service hub publishes information for parents on how they can help their children both in and outside of school [here](#).