

Music development plan summary: St John Wall Catholic School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	A.Antonucci
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Services For Education
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Birmingham Music Service Soundlab Beverly Robinson (vocal teacher) Clive Scott (steel pan teacher)

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: 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.

KS3 receive music lessons for 1 x 75 minute lesson per week. KS4, should they choose it as a subject, receive 2 x 75 minute lessons per week.

Alongside this, every pupil can take part in peripatetic instrument lessons outside of the music curriculum in various instruments such as: keyboard, guitar, vocals, violin, steel pans, drum kit and dohl drums for a small fee. These lessons are heavily subsidised to enable all pupils to access the lessons. All KS4 pupils are expected to have peripatetic lessons. These lessons allow pupils, advanced one-to-one support with a specialist teacher from Services for Education with the aim that pupils can sit graded music exams in their instrument.

The music curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021) where pupils approach composing, performing, listening and singing throughout the year.

At KS3: Every pupil learns how to play the keyboard and read a one-part visual score whilst also looking at music from around the world, describing them through musical terminology using listening skills. They will play African drums, Dohl drums and be introduced to other instruments from around the world. Pupils learn how to use their voice to sing or rap by composing through songwriting and producing using music technology whilst exploring different genres of music and the musical elements that categorise them. Pupils also sing as a choir in KS3 learning a different hymn every term which they perform as a collective in services and masses.

At KS4: pupils can receive an EDUQAS Level 1/ 2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts which entails pupils performing original songs on their chosen instrument, composing music on their chosen instrument whilst also using music technology as a tool to compose music. Pupils in KS4 are given the opportunity to perform as an ensemble band learning key ensemble performance skills.

The school takes prides in its musical talent and this shines through the curriculum and the partnerships we have made. Alongside the Music Mark and our partnership with Services for Education, we also have a partnership with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire- SoundLab project. This is an after-school club that runs fortnightly allowing pupils of all year groups to compose as an ensemble. This amounts to a final performance of the songs composed in Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Please see the full detail of our curriculum here: <https://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk/contact-us/curriculum/key-stage-3/performing-arts-music>

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.

Our school offers peripatetic small group and one-to-one instrument lessons throughout the year. We offer keyboard, drum kit, vocals, steel pans, violin, dohl and guitar lessons. These are provided by Services for Education and the charge for these lessons are heavily subsidised by the school but there is a charge of £20 per term, per pupil, which on average covers 12-14- 20-minute lessons. Over time, pupils can then take music graded exams which count towards their average point score.

Pupils of all year groups can join SoundLab after school ensemble for free which is ran by Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Pupils of all year groups can also come to the music room during set break/lunchtimes to rehearse as an ensemble or as a soloist.

Pupils of all year groups can perform in many performances across the academic year with services at the end of every term, masses at the start of every term, awards evening, showcases and more. There are weekly rehearsals for our annual school show which this year will be Aladdin. This is open to all pupils who are interested in music, drama and dance to learn original songs and perform as a large ensemble on their chosen instrument. Interventions are in place aimed at KS4 pupils to rehearse for their assessments after school however this is also open to all year groups.

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.

This academic year, we will have musical performances in our end of term services and masses (Christmas, Easter and Summer) which are open to any year group. For KS3, pupils sing as a whole year group choir in weekly worship (assembly) once a week. They rehearse the hymns that are currently being looked at in music lessons as well as hymns previously learnt.

Pupils perform in our awards evening and cultural Heritage Day which is open to all year groups. At the end of Christmas term we will put on a Christmas Carol Concert which will showcase all the work the peripatetic pupils have been working on in their lessons as well as allow the KS3 pupils to showcase the hymns they have been rehearsing.

We will put on our annual school show which this year will be Aladdin. This enables pupils of all vocations to take part in a large showcase which is open to all. Including pupils that want to take part in backstage support. Rehearsals for the show start in September and continue throughout the academic year with the final performances in summer term.

Outside of school, pupils will perform with the after-school club SoundLab ran by Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. This performance will take place in the summer term with the SoundLab pupils at RBC performance hall. Music, drama and dance pupils can

also take part in the School Games talent show which is a competition ran by the School Games, pupils that qualify can then perform in the Hippodrome.

Services for Education offers ensemble performances throughout the year for our Dohl drummers, band performances and a guitar day. All these events mentioned are free of charge to take part.

The Performing Arts department take pupils on various trips throughout the year, this year we are taking pupils to a music university such as BCU's Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Every year we take our pupils on a trip to watch a musical in a theatre such as Hippodrome.

In the future

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

Our hall is being refurbished in Summer 2024, the aim this year is for pupils to learn how to use our new sound system and be able to run live sound through our new professional mixing desk and sound equipment. The aim is for our pupils to run any musical events and shows we have themselves, with minimal support from teachers allowing pupils a real taste of what a vocation in music is like. We will use the refurbished hall as a regular classroom for the pupils, getting them used to performing on a stage and to an audience, understanding various acoustics and performance spaces.

We will develop our singing even further ensuring by 2027 the whole of the school is able to sing hymns together. We will do this by teaching hymns to every KS3 group and continue this when they progress into KS4. This ensures that hymns and singing is integrated into the heart of the school.

We will provide the opportunity for pupils to take part in a graded music exam each year on their chosen instrument from grade 1-8. This will motivate them to continue their instrument and progress to the next graded exam in the following years to come, we aim to do this before the academic year 2025-2026.

We would continue to refine our curriculum in lessons to continue to suit our pupils needs, music is an ever-changing topic that adapts and develops through time and our curriculum will follow alongside this. We want our pupils to learn about the roots of music and its history as well as the current adaptations and changes such as the use of music as a promotional tool. The curriculum is constantly being refined but the adaptations often commence at the start of every academic year.

