



SACRED HEART

Sacred Heart Catholic High School

Music Development Plan Summary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	Sept 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2025
Name of the school music lead	Thos Oates (Head of Music)
Name of local music hub	Music Partnership North

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' music education.

Vision

At Sacred Heart Catholic High School, we encourage all of our students to develop a love of music by offering a range of performance, composing and listening opportunities in both curriculum music lessons and in our inspirational programme of co-curricular enhancement opportunities; *'to move and inspire'*.

We aim to offer an engaging curriculum which is rigorous, musical and accessible to all, exploring a range of styles, genres and traditions while covering the three main strands of performing, composing, and listening and understanding.

Our vision is to offer a comprehensive programme of instrumental and singing lessons which are accessible to all and allow students from all backgrounds the opportunity to develop their expertise as musicians. We aim for our range of co-curricular clubs and ensembles to encompass a range of abilities and cover a range of musical styles, to inspire and encourage high-quality musicianship.

We also strive to offer all students the opportunity to experience the magic of live musical performance, and of performing to an audience. We also aim to offer a broad and exciting range of musical enhancement opportunities, allowing our musicians to be inspired by experts from across the world of music.

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 students can achieve.

The Music Department at Sacred Heart Catholic High School teaches a rigorous and varied curriculum at Key Stage 3, with all students having timetabled music lessons of one-hour every week. Our KS3 Music curriculum is outlined on the school [website](#), and offers opportunities for students to develop skills and knowledge in the three main strands of the subject: performance (including improvisation), composition and listening and understanding, as required by the National Curriculum. All students get the chance to learn instrumental skills on keyboards in lessons (working both individually and in ensembles) and whole-class singing is encouraged.

We have an ambitious curriculum at KS3 which has been carefully developed over time and does not follow the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum; however, as recommended in the MMC, we cover a varied range of genres/styles, skills and techniques. In doing so, we offer opportunities for students to develop their knowledge and skills over time by building on prior knowledge and attainment,

At Key Stage 4 we offer students the opportunity to study [AQA GCSE Music](#) (five hours teaching per fortnight), and at Key Stage 5 we offer [AQA A-Level Music](#) (nine hours per fortnight). Many of our A-Level students go on to study music at university or music conservatoires. Our KS4 and KS5 students are provided with access to the online revision tool [Focus on Sound](#).

We aim to make all aspects of the curriculum accessible to every student through scaffolding and adaptive teaching, embedded use of the Sacred Heart Quality First teaching principles, following the school's [SEND Policy](#) and [Accessibility Plan](#), and working closely with our SENDCo. We are always striving to improve our resources and approaches as required to improve access and student outcomes.

We work closely with our local music hub, [Music Partnership North](#), especially in regard to the CPD they offer, in order to ensure our curriculum is in keeping with national guidance and policy.

Part B: Co-curricular Music

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

Sacred Heart has a strong co-curricular offer that runs alongside our core curriculum lessons.

We offer a broad suite of instrumental and singing lessons, with specialist peripatetic teachers coming into school every week offering paired/group/one-to-one lessons that are offered to all students (paid). These lessons run during the school day alongside the taught curriculum and are carefully timetabled on a rota so that students do not regularly miss lessons from a single subject.

We currently offer lessons in: piano; guitar (including classical and electric guitar, bass guitar and ukulele); woodwind (including flute, clarinet, saxophones, oboe etc); brass (including trumpet, trombone, French horn, cornet etc); drums and percussion; strings (including violin, viola and cello); singing (classical, popular and musicals). All students who take instrumental/singing lessons are encouraged to take Ofqual-regulated graded music exams, such as those offered by ABRSM.

Students who are eligible for Pupil Premium/sixth form bursary funding (including those who are 'cared for') can have the cost of their lessons paid for by the school (paired lessons, or one-to-one lessons for those taking Music at GCSE or A-Level); please see the [Pupil Premium strategy statement](#) for more information. We also have a small fund to support gifted and talented musicians, which is updated on an annual basis.

In some cases, we can loan instruments to students, and have multiple classrooms and practice spaces where students and ensembles can practise and rehearse individually or in groups.

We are proud to offer a range of free co-curricular clubs, ensembles and choirs that students can join to improve their skills, attainment and enjoyment of Music in school.

Our co-curricular ensemble offer currently includes: Junior Choir (for years 7-8), Senior Choir (for years 9-13), Senior Orchestra (for instrumentalists of Grade 3+), Junior Rock School (for years 7-8), Senior Rock School (for years 9-11), BSL Signing Choir (for years 7-13), 'Period 6' Composition Coursework Club (for GCSE Music students).

Our BSL Signing Choir is student-led, and Senior Rock School is delivered by expert practitioners from our music hub, Music Partnership North, who organise an annual rock showcase for bands who participate.

Our co-curricular offer is frequently signposted in lessons, assemblies and emails to students, and we also point our students towards further co-curricular opportunities outside of school, including those offered by regional music hubs, community and

cathedral choirs and orchestras, and community centres such as the North Benwell Youth Project.

Part C: Musical Events and Enrichment

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 Music Department at Sacred Heart has a busy performance schedule, offering regular opportunities for students and musical ensembles to perform in formal settings including concerts, showcases, assemblies and recitals, as well as informal opportunities to perform to their peers.

We have an annual Christmas concert, senior recital evening, regular music showcase assemblies and an Easter showcase event which alternates biennially with a school musical (in collaboration with the Performing Arts Faculty). We are proud of our school shows and work closely with performing arts colleagues to present very high quality musicals and productions in school. Furthermore, our two choirs contribute to supporting the school's catholic ethos through participation in liturgical events throughout the year, culminating in the whole-school Mass each July. In preparation for this event, large hymn-practise assemblies take place, so all students are familiar with the hymns beforehand. The vast majority of our public musical events are free, so that no students' families are disadvantaged by being unable to afford tickets.

Through our co-curricular programme, all students in the school get the chance to experience live performance from their peers (those who are in ensembles or taking instrumental/singing lessons), and these moments are used to inspire and promote our co-curricular offer to all.

Students who are involved in curriculum music at KS4 and KS5, as well as those involved in the co-curricular programme are able to access further performance opportunities, including trips to see professional performances (including opera), internal workshops with expert composers and practitioners, and career conferences about the music industry.

In the Future

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

In order to further improve our departmental offer, we aim to make the following improvements/modifications to our provision:

- To really focus on developing singing in music lessons, as an integral part of music-making in school.

- To improve our Music Technology offer, through the planned and ongoing upgrades of equipment and computer software, as well as staff training in this area.
- Continue to encourage inclusive participation in our co-curricular offer to all students across the school, proactively working to engage and support students with additional needs to ensure access for all in clubs/lessons/activities.
- Plan an opportunity for full year groups to experience expert live performance.

Links and Further Information

- National Plan for Music Education (2022): [national plan for music education](#)
- DfE [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.
- National Curriculum for Music (KS3): [KS3 Music National Curriculum](#)
- Music Partnership North (local music hub): [Music Partnership North](#)

Music Partnership North Local Plan for Music Education (2024-25): [Music Partnership North, Newcastle \(musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk\)](#)