

St Thomas More Catholic School
Music Development Plan 2025/26

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Review date: September 2026

Sarah Olsen - Head of Performing Arts

Richard Lennox - Assistant Head Teacher with link responsibility for music

Rationale

“Music is a cornerstone of the broad and balanced education that every child should receive. It touches hearts and minds, it celebrates and challenges, and it connects us and moves us” *The Power of Music to Change Lives - DFE*

Throughout their school experience students will develop skills as **performing, composing, and appraising** musicians. Pupils will acquire performance skills on a range of instruments and vitally the ability to read musical notation fluently for performance, composing and appraising purposes. They will secure understanding of the musical elements in order to analyse music independently, as well as develop a basic toolkit of compositional skills using notation and sequencing software.

Students will be inspired to appreciate both the performance of music and the joy of listening enabling them to realise their musical potential at school and hopefully beyond into further education and industry.

Our Catholic ethos is at the heart of our music curriculum, extra-curricular offer and in the accompaniment students and staff offer to the range of spiritual events taking place across the year including the Carol Concert and accompaniments for Mass and Collective Worship.

Part A: Curriculum Music

Current Provision KS3

- Student in KS3 currently receive 1 hour of Music per week from Year 7-9
- All students in Year 7 begin their STM music experience by receiving a musical instrument to borrow and lessons focus on the mastery of playing
- Curriculum Model [☰ Music Curriculum Overview](#)

The key concepts are the musical elements which apply to all 3 skill areas: **Performing, Composing, Appraising:**

- Musical Notation
- Dynamics
- Rhythm
- Structure
- Melody
- Instrumentation/Sonority
- Texture
- Harmony and Tonality
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Current Provision KS4

- As part of the Options process students can choose to study GCSE Music
- Year 10 will study the Edexcel specification and Year 11 the Eduqas

Part B: Co-curricular music

Peripatetic Lessons

- We have a team of talented and dedicated self-employed musicians and we also offer peripatetic lessons from Year 7-13. Our current provision can be found below:

Mondays - Woodwind	Tuesdays - Strings	Wednesdays - Brass and Guitar	Fridays
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Flute	Violin	Brass - Trumpet/Cornet/ Trombone/Tuba/ Euphonium/Tenor Horn	Singing
Clarinet	Viola	Guitar	Percussion
Saxophone	Cello	Guitar Ensemble	Piano
		Electric Guitar	

- Students can be entered for ABRSM grades - <https://www.abrsm.org/en-gb>

Current Costs:

<i>Individual Tuition</i> Between £90-108 per term based on 9-12 lessons per half term.	<i>Paired/Small Group Tuition</i> Approximately £65 based on 9-10 lessons per term.
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- If your child is currently in receipt of free school meals, we may be able to make arrangements to fund/subsidise music tuition through school. All requests can be considered via Sarah Olsen - Head of Performing Arts or Stephen Tait our Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for Pupil Premium.

Extra-Curricular Music Clubs

- Students wishing to expand their love of music can also access our many free extra-curricular clubs. Our current timetable is below:

	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Lunchtime	Chamber Choir		Year 7 Performance Club DJ Club		Composition Clinic Junior Choir

			Guitar Ensemble		
After school		Orchestra	Jazz Band	Whole School Musical	

- For more information please see any of the Performing Arts staff.
- In addition to this we have 3 Practice Rooms which are available for small groups wishing to rehearse - these can be booked through Performing Arts staff.

Part C: Musical experiences

Performance Opportunities

- Students are invited to take part in our three end of term celebrations of Music scheduled in December, March and July. These performances allow our musicians the opportunity to perform to an audience of parents, friends and family as well members of our wider community.
- In addition, we have our Whole School Musical production in March. Students audition in September and can take on a singing role, be involved backstage or perform in the show band. Past productions include; Grease, We Will Rock You, Fame, Oliver, Les Miserables, Beauty and the Beast, The Addams Family and Back to the 80s. Pupils can get involved from September 24.
- Families can purchase tickets via Parent Pay, proceeds help to support the Music department replace vital equipment

Trips

- In academic year 25/26 students studying GCSE and A-level Music will have the opportunity to attend a trip to see a touring musical theatre production at the Theatre Royal and A-level students invited to attend a concert at the Glasshouse.

Additional Information

- [Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK](#)

- [Policies — Gateshead & South Tyneside Music Hub](#)

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the national plan for music education:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail Information

Academic year that this summary covers

Date this summary was published

Date this summary will be reviewed

Name of the school music lead

Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)

Name of local music hub

Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)

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.

Your school should already publish the school curriculum for music for each year group online. This should also include how you are increasing access for disabled pupils and supporting pupils with special educational needs (SEND). Include a link to this information in this summary. For more, see the school information guidance on curriculum and on SEND for maintained schools and for academies and free schools.

If not included in your published school curriculum information, set out how time per week is allocated for curriculum music for each key stage and term (or each half-term) of the academic year.

Also consider including:

- whether your school music curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021), non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3 or any other published curriculum guidance.
- a brief summary of the opportunities pupils have to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time, such as through whole-class ensemble teaching in some or all year groups.
- information on any partnerships the school has to support curriculum music, such as with your local music hub or other music education organisations. If you are a music hub lead school, you can refer to this here.

For secondary schools: Set out what music qualifications and awards pupils can study and achieve at the school in the academic year, including graded music exams (all key stages) and GCSE, A level or vocational and technical qualifications (at key stage 4 and 16 to 18). If your school already publishes this information, include a link in this summary.

Part B: Co-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.

Start with what music tuition your school offers outside of what is taught in lesson time, including one-to-one, small-group and large-group tuition for instruments or voice.

Set out what ensembles that pupils can join outside of what is taught in lesson time, such as choirs or vocal ensembles, as well as instrumental ensembles, bands and groups, and other forms of music-making.

Set out how pupils can make progress in music outside of lesson time, including instrument loans, weekend, after-school or holiday provision such as Saturday music centres, and any qualifications or awards pupils can achieve.

Also consider including:

- what instruments are offered, charging and remissions information, and if the tuition is subsidised or free, including for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).
- how pupils can join choirs or ensembles and from which year groups, charging and remissions information, and if the tuition is subsidised or free, including for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).
- information on where pupils can rehearse or practice individually or in groups.

Draw on information of any partnerships the school has to support co-curricular music, such as with your local music hub or other music education organisations.

Alternative titles for Part B could be 'Extra-curricular music' or 'Music tuition, choirs and ensembles'.

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.

Set out what musical experiences are planned for the academic year, including regular events such as singing in assembly, musical performances, concerts and shows at the school, and trips to concerts outside of the school.

For musical performances, concerts and shows in and out of schools, include how pupils get involved and from which year groups, whether pupils are participating or are members of the audience.

Also consider including:

- charging information, and if events are subsidised or free, including for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).

Draw on information of any partnerships the school has to support musical experiences, such as with your local music hub, music education organisations, music organisations or musicians.

Alternative titles for Part C could be 'Musical events' or 'Musical performances'.

In the future

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

Use this space to include any information on any improvements you plan to make for subsequent years in curriculum music, co-curricular music or musical experiences, including when you plan to introduce changes.

Also consider including:

- any information that relates to the 7 features of high-quality music provision (see the text box at the beginning of the template), such as increasing lesson time to one hour a week each term, introducing the teaching of new instruments or having a termly school performance.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.