

# Music development plan summary: St Aidan's Catholic Academy

## Overview

| Detail   | Information          |
|--|----------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers   | 2024-2025            |
| Date this summary was published  | 02/09/2024           |
| Date this summary will be reviewed   | 01/09/2024           |
| Name of the school music lead  | Ceri Payne           |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Louise Priest        |
| Name of local music hub  | Sunderland Music Hub |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)            |                      |

## Vision and Intent

Our school is committed to delivering a high-quality music education that inspires and engages all students. Through the implementation of the Model Music Curriculum, we aim to foster creativity, self-expression, and a deep appreciation for music in every child. Our intent is to develop a curriculum that builds musical understanding, skills, and knowledge, both in and beyond the classroom. We will provide opportunities for all students to access a rich and diverse music curriculum that equips them for future musical engagement, whether as performers, creators, or informed listeners.

## Part A: Curriculum music

In music lessons students are exposed to the six strands of music through:

1. **Singing** – learn a range of songs from the shows, warm up techniques, songs from different cultures, time and place.
2. **Playing** – basic keyboard skills through gaining a knowledge of notation and right and left hand techniques.
3. **Composition** – draw on experience of songs from shows and different cultures to make simple musical compositions.
4. **Improvising** – opportunities to experiment and explore music using knowledge of structures, scales, tonality and timbre gained in performance.
5. **Critical Engagement** – time during lessons to reflect on and respond to singing, playing and their own musical performances.

6. **Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural** – Opportunity to engage in music as a community; experience music of different cultures, time and place; ability to develop resilience in achieving musical goals.

Further to music lessons students will also engage with the curriculum:

- Through performance in whole school events such as assemblies, liturgies and concerts.
- Through opting to take Music in Y9 studying BTEC Tech award in Music Practice.
- Through being selected to take GCSE music as an enrichment activity.

Our progress map demonstrates the expected outcome for each pupil at the end of year group, giving clear outcomes. This will be achieved overtime through repetition of exercises. [Music - St. Aidan's Catholic Academy St. Aidan's Catholic Academy \(staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk\)](http://staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk)

### **Year 7**

Focus on the fundamentals of music, including rhythm, melody, harmony, and notation. Students will engage in vocal work, instrumental performance (using classroom instruments such as keyboards, guitar, or drums), and introduction to composition and improvisation. The curriculum will cover a range of musical styles, from classical to popular music, with students learning about music from different cultures.

### **Year 8**

Building on the foundations of Year 7, students will deepen their understanding of musical concepts. They will further develop their skills in performing and composing, exploring more complex structures and forms. Focus areas will be Dance Music, Music for Media and India Music this will include ensemble performance, song composition, and a study of key composers from different historical periods. The use of technology in music production and composition will also be introduced.

### **Year 9**

By Year 9, students will have a firm grasp of key musical concepts and will begin to explore music in a more analytical and evaluative way. The curriculum will focus on preparing students for GCSE Music by developing their skills in performance, composition, and critical listening. Students will study a range of genres, from Western classical music to contemporary popular music, with an emphasis on developing musical independence.

## Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

At St Aidan's all Instrumental lessons are delivered after school, students have access to specialist instrumental teachers. Students can access Piano lessons, Violin lessons, Guitar lessons, Drum lessons, Bass Guitar lessons, Cello lessons and Woodwind lessons, these all carry a termly fee of £72. Financial support is available for pupil premium students.

Students can join St Aidan's singers focusing on contemporary vocal techniques and popular music. The Rock Band club runs from The Bunker in Sunderland. These sessions allow students to use the fantastic facilities at The Bunker and practice their instruments.

All extra-curricular music lessons are available for our SEND children. Children who participate in extra-curricular music activities have access to the school hall and extra classrooms in school to rehearse and practise their skills.

To raise the profile and further engage our children in Music we also offer a range of activities throughout the year.

Students of all years perform in the Christmas Productions and whole school assemblies. The music played during assemblies and Celebrations of the word encourage children to sing and perform.

Music outcomes are often shared and performed either live to the school community and parents, or recorded and shared with families via our social media platforms.

## Part C: Musical experiences

To raise the profile and further engage our students in Music we also offer a range of musical experiences throughout the year such as:

- Attending concerts locally in event spaces such as the Fire Station
- Events arranged through our partnership with Sunderland Music Hub,
- Our Christmas concerts
- Our Rock Band perform live in the main hall each Friday
- Our Celebrations of the Word at Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter give opportunities for students to sing and experience live performances.

## In the future

Our long-term vision for musical enrichment at St Aidan's is to embed our musical performances deeply into the local community. We aim to create a sustainable and inclusive musical culture that reaches beyond the curriculum and provides students with life-changing experiences in music.

We intend to broaden and enrich the music offer for students by introducing a range of initiatives that will expose them to professional music-making, community engagement, and a wide variety of musical styles and genres. Our focus will be on ensuring that all students have access to high-quality musical experiences, regardless of their background or prior experience.

### **Partnerships with External Music Organisations**

We intend to establish wider partnerships with local music services, professional musicians, and organizations such as orchestras, opera companies, and recording studios. Sunderland Music Hub and The Fire Station auditorium which opened in December 2021 will provide many opportunities for this. These partnerships will provide students with workshops, masterclasses, and opportunities to attend live performances. Collaborate with music conservatoires and universities to provide students with guidance and insight into careers in music.

### **Music Trips and Residential**

We intend to increase the number of trips to concerts, festivals, and theatre productions, giving students the chance to experience live music in a variety of settings. Plan residential trips focused on music, such as music camps or international music tours, providing immersive musical experiences for students.

### **Community Music Projects**

We will create opportunities for students to engage with the wider community and local parishes through music, including performances at local care homes, charity events, and community festivals.

Launch a "Music Ambassadors" scheme where students lead music projects for younger students in the school or local primary schools.

## Further information

[About | Sunderland Music Hub](#)

[Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)