

Music development plan summary: St John's CofE Middle School Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss C. Russell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts
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.

At St John's we aspire to enable our students to enjoy a long-lasting relationship with music both during their time at school and beyond. We believe that education should be about developing the whole person, and that as a church school we have a particular responsibility to enable all members of our school community to develop spiritually, and personally, as well as academically. Music is for everyone, it provides us with a creative means by which to explore ourselves and the world around us, including life's big questions, and 'big moments', and to explore how others have responded artistically to these things, enabling the acquisition of cultural capital, and enhancing our empathy for, and understanding of, different cultures, times and traditions. Musical participation builds community and helps us explore what it means to come together in unity. It provides a creative way for us to communicate our own ideas, beliefs and understanding of the world around us, both seen and unseen, and to explore how others have done so before us. Music allows us to move beyond ourselves, and beyond the limits of spoken/written language. We therefore want all our young people to have the opportunity to make more music, think more musically and thus become more musical.

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.

Our curriculum is designed to be inclusive; recognising that all our pupils are inherently creative, made in the image of the creative God; whilst also valuing excellence and challenge. To achieve this, we believe in offering students opportunities to acquire, and put to use, a dynamic skills set that makes it possible for them to perform, produce, reflect and evaluate musically. We will explore the musical expressions of different times, places, and social/cultural contexts, and how music as a global art demonstrates a plethora of both contrasts and commonalities. We will foster and harness the musical progress of every child, recognising that all are known and valued as children of God, and nurture their growing, expressive creativity to the backdrop of an engaging, challenging and culturally varied curriculum.

All pupils at St John's receive one curricular music lesson per week. Our curriculum is built upon a spiral model, integrating singing, playing, composing, improvising and listening/wider skills. Our music curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum, and aims to balance a broad knowledge of musical skills and styles, with the development of increasingly deeper musical skills. Disabled pupils and pupils with special educational needs are supported through adaptations tailored to the individual, including, but not limited to, the use of music technology, specialised instrumental adaptations, the use of ear defenders/break out spaces to help address any challenges around sensory load, and other adapted resources.

Singing forms the central core of our music lessons, along with focus instruments on which we aim to develop good techniques over a sustained period of time.

Year 5: djembe, keyboards, tuned percussion

Year 6: ukuleles, Brazilian samba, keyboards

Year 7: ukuleles, Indonesian gamelan, keyboards

Year 8: ukuleles, keyboards, sequencing

	Autumn		Spring	Summer
Y5	Young Voices		How Music Works I	Musical Cycles
Y6	Ukuleles I	Musical Theatre	How Music Works II	Keyboards I
Y7	Ukuleles II	Folk Music	Keyboards II	Tones and Colours
Y8	Pop Music (Ukuleles III)		Film & Television Music	Keyboards III

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.

St John's offers peripatetic instrumental tuition, individually, in pairs and in small groups, on the following instruments:

Piano	Saxophone	Euphonium
Guitar	Bassoon	Tuba
Drum Kit	Trumpet	Violin
Flute	Trombone	Viola
Oboe	Tenor Horn	Cello
Clarinet	Bariton	Voice

Instruments can be loaned either from Severn Arts, or directly from school. Many pupils complete performance exams with either ABRSM, Trinity or Rock School. Support with tuition is available to pupils eligible for pupil premium, and LAC can receive tuition free of charge. Lessons are provided by a mix of teachers from Severn Arts and private instrumental tuition. All contracts and billing are dealt with directly by the music hub/individual teachers.

Pupils at St John's have the opportunity to sing in two choirs, to play in a mixed instrumental ensemble, and to take part in the school musical production either singing and acting on stage, or as part of the show band. Pupils are also able to make use of the practice room or classroom (when available) to undertake their own practice/rehearsal by booking in time with the head of music. All choirs/ensembles are provided free of charge. We also work with Severn Arts, STLP and Bromsgrove school to extend our extracurricular offer through specific orchestral/singing days.

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.

All pupils have the opportunity to sing in assemblies/collective worship, our half-termly church services and hymn practices. Our regular church services also provide singers/musicians, choir and ensemble with regular performance opportunities, in front of the rest of the school (and at Christmas an external audience of parents/cares). In addition, our school musical production involves a large volume of pupils either on stage or in the show band.

Young Voices, the Big Sing and external orchestral/jazz/ensemble days provide further opportunities for performance as both performers and audience.

In the future

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

The development of 'mini-recitals' where pupils can grow confidence through low-stakes performance opportunities to parents and/or peers, based around the peripatetic provision already in place.

The introduction of class based musical theatre opportunities within the curriculum so that all pupils can experience the process of learning, rehearsing and putting together a performance.

To extend the opportunity for pupils to experience live performances from external performers where possible.