

Music development plan summary: The Academy of St Nicholas

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

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	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	Aug 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2024
Name of the school music lead	Mr J Davis
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr M Kealey
Name of local music hub	Resonate
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.

The Academy of St Nicholas is an academy with age range 11-19 mixed secondary school which is Roman Catholic and Church of England school. The music department is currently staffed by one music teacher. Key Stage 3 curriculum is one hour a week on a two-week timetable. Keystage 4 is BTEC First Music is 5 hours over a fortnight. The music department consists of three practice rooms and the main classroom is equipped with 17 mac computers.

The music curriculum encompasses the areas of Listening, Performing, Composing and Singing.

Listening

All students will listen to and appraise music linked to the units studied. They will also be encouraged to listen to an eclectic year group playlist created to develop musical awareness, enhance home based listening and expand knowledge of different genres. Regular class-based tasks and bi-annual formal listening tests will support the development of aural skills.

Performing

Students will perform regularly on various instruments and voice. This includes ensemble singing (in year 7), solo and duet keyboard tasks, guitars and ukuleles.

Composing

Students will compose in various forms as they progress through key stage 3 and 4. Group work compositions developing an understanding of Blues, Major and Minor scales runs through key stage 3. At Key Stage 4 level, students will use Logic Pro X to support individual composition coursework.

Singing

Singing is taught as a unit of work leading towards Christmas, consisting mainly of secular Christmas songs. Pupils are then encouraged to join the school choir and uptake peripatetic singing lessons to further develop their vocal skill sets.

Time allocated to teaching music

Time Allocated to teaching music per fortnight:

Year 7: 2 hours

Year 8: 2 hours

Year 9: 2 hours

BTEC: 5 hours

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The Key stage 3 curriculum is designed to develop knowledge acquired at KS2 and build on securing understanding of the elements of music through the study of the history of music in chronological order. This sequence of lessons over three years includes development of aural skills, solo keyboard skills, guitar, ukulele and ensemble skills, as well as gaining a deep understanding of how to use Logic Pro X to record, edit and remix music.

Year 7

The introduction of Rhythm and pulse in the first term allows students to secure the most basic musical foundations through Traditional African music. Regular singing in class through November and December, and an annual Christmas show, embeds a singing culture which is reinforced by preparations for a choral group performance at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral in the summer term.

Term two builds on the musical notation foundations established in term one by introducing the element of pitch, through gaining an understanding of how to read and perform music for keyboard/piano.

Term three builds on the skills acquired in term one and two through analysis of all the elements of music, and their creative and effective use in musical composition projects.

All students can expect weekly verbal feedback from their teacher alongside peer and self-assessment as well as numerous listening tasks through the term to develop aural perception.

Year 8

Our Year 8 curriculum builds on knowledge and skills mastered in year 7. The study of Blues and Rock and Roll music expands and secures understanding of structure,

chords, syncopation and improvisation through performances on guitar, ukulele and MIDI keyboards in Logic Pro X.

The study of popular music allows pupils the opportunity to analyse and perform popular songs in the musical canon. Pupils also learn techniques for composing popular songs.

Year 9

Learning about how to use all the functions of Logic Pro X dominates the year 9 curriculum, starting with Hip-Hop to introduce the concept of sampling and remixing other artists' music. Pupils then study EDM, composing using major and minor scales.

Film and video game music further develops their compositional skill set by introducing the diminished scale and whole tone scale, composing music to an industry brief.

Key Stage 4 curriculum

We follow the Edexcel BTEC Firsts in Music curriculum which includes:

25% - Managing a musical product

25% - The Music Industry (written exam)

25% - Introduction to composition

25% - Introduction to live sound

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The Academy of Saint Nicholas is a totally inclusive school and staff in all subjects are committed to equity and inclusion. In the music department opportunities to make music without restriction both during curriculum time and extra-curricular music clubs. This is paramount to our role within the school. Adaptations are always made to accommodate learning needs. It is recognised that some students may require additional, often temporary, scaffolded to reach these outcomes. The music department is a special place where students feel safe and part of a familiar and comfortable group sharing a common goal. There is tolerance, kindness and a real sense of community for all who seek music making.

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.

Links to Local Music Hub

The Academy of Saint Nicholas collaborates with Resonate Music Hub (Resonate (resonatehub.co.uk), engaging peripatetic staff to deliver instrumental tuition for band instruments, vocals, DJing and orchestral instruments.

Karaoke Club once a week at lunchtime, Harmonix Club (Vocal) once a week after school, Band Club is twice a week after school.

We offer a full day of Peripatetic lessons – this includes band instruments as well as singing, orchestral instruments and DJing. This is only subsidised for PPE students, otherwise the cost is £8 per lesson.

The department will work with the Drama department to produce a whole school talent show at Christmas.

Our spring term show is an 'X Factor-style' singing competition, designed to celebrate the hard work completed by pupils in karaoke club.

Our summer term show is a 'Battle of the Bands' event, showcasing the talents of our pupils who attend band club, as well as guest appearances from staff, and bands from other schools across our Trust.

We plan to visit the Liverpool Philharmonic with Year 9 to see Film Music by John Williams.

Year 7 will experience a pantomime or show.

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.

One termly assembly performance for all key stages.

X Factor end of the Spring Term 2025

Battle of Bands Summer term 2025

Talent show will be at Christmas 2024

The following trips will be offered to the whole year group, students might have to contribute to transport costs.

Year 7 Pantomime at Christmas

Year 9 go to the Philharmonic Orchestra in Liverpool - TBC

Year 8 to the Beatles Museum and Maritime Museum - TBC

In the future

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

To develop links with musicians, industry and colleges and universities to build on careers and music experience. To make links with the Cavern Club for bands to perform in.

To develop links with the Music Hub to support access to extra curricular music.

To create links for orchestral musicians to come in for students to experience a broad range of different instruments.

To build on students uptake in Yr10 for music technology (vocational) and GCSE Music (academic).

Looking to offer a Level 3 Music at keystone 5 (vocational and academic)

To continue to build on the peripatetic offer within the school.

Further information (optional)