

Music development plan summary: St John Fisher Catholic High School

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	A. Bryant
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	A. Rigby
Name of local music hub	Wigan
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.

All pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 are taught in mixed ability sets and receive the equivalent of one 60 minute music lesson per week.

The skills of composing, performing and listening and appraising are developed through topic based units. Topics studied include Samba, Musical Theatre, Blues, Four chord song, Club Dance...

At Key Stage Four, pupils have the option to study GCSE Music and follow the Eduqas specification. They receive six 60 minute music lessons per fortnight.

Further details regarding the music curriculum can be found here: [Music | Sifhs](#)

The music teaching area consists of two main teaching rooms, together with 4 practise rooms and a recording studio. Both teaching rooms are equipped with sufficient pupil keyboards to allow whole class keyboard work and have 15 multimedia PCs interfaced

with midi keyboards running Cubase and Sibelius software. All practise rooms have a piano and a drumkit for individual and small ensemble use.

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.

The Music Department currently facilitates the provision of instrumental lessons in school using Wigan Music Service. This enables pupils to have the opportunity to learn a music instrument on a one-to-one basis. The current provision includes individual lessons for voice, guitar (electric/acoustic/bass), keyboard, piano, drumkit, trumpet/cornet, tuba, violin, clarinet, flute, tin-whistle and DJ skills. These lessons are currently subsidised for all pupils. Parents are able to pay for these lessons on a weekly basis via the Wisepay app. Pupils are encouraged to enter external exams to help mark their progress and examination boards used include ABRSM, Rock School and Trinity. Pupils taking lessons in school are actively encouraged to participate in the extra-curricular activities to help further develop their performance skills.

The Music Department offers a range of extra-curricular activities; some are open to all, some require specific skills. Ensembles which meet on a weekly basis currently include the SJF Singers. Pupils are also given the opportunity for extra study in Theory and GCSE workshops. In addition to providing opportunities to perform, the Music Department also aims to provide opportunities for pupils to watch musical productions and concerts by professional musicians as these opportunities arise.

The Music Department has strong partnerships with Wigan Music Service and St John Rigby VI Form College to support both curriculum and extra-curricular provision.

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.

Regular events in school include singing in assembly and whole school masses. There are also opportunities to celebrate pupil performances in various musical concerts throughout the year. Some of these are open to all pupils and are non-selective, including the Christmas Carol Services and the whole school show. The Spotlight Concerts are by invitation and are an opportunity to celebrate excellence and outstanding progress. In addition to providing opportunities to perform in school, pupils also have to opportunity to perform in our local community, at local care homes and churches. Collaborative projects out of school include the annual Cafod Carol Service

at St Teresa's Church and the Good Shepherd Mass at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. These events are open to all and free to access. The school also takes part in the Young Voices Concerts, performing as a massed choir with other schools at Manchester Arena. For events such as these, pupils are asked to contribute towards the cost of transport.

Pupils also have the opportunity to experience live music as a member of the audience. For these events, pupils are asked to contribute towards the cost of transport and tickets. These include amateur productions, such as those performed by local colleges and professional productions, such as The Halle Orchestra.

In the future

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

- The department would very much like to provide more opportunities for external musicians to visit school, leading workshops to work directly with pupils and perform. This is currently restricted due to funding.
- Future plans include providing more opportunities for pupil performance in school, such as lunch time concerts. This is planned for once we are established in our new building and will be subject to lunch-time provision such as split lunches.

Further information (optional)

Pupils are encouraged to join ensembles delivered out of school by the Wigan Music Service.