

Music Development Plan Summary: St Edmund's Catholic Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	20th September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	20th September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr A Hughes
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs P Gill
Name of local music hub	Wolverhampton Music Service
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, extra-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.

Our curriculum for KS3, KS4 and KS5 can be found on our website [here](#). In summary, all students study Music throughout KS3, receiving one, 1.25hr lesson every two weeks. Students opting to study Music in KS4 receive two 1.25hr lessons every week, and students opting to study Music Technology in KS5 receive four 1.25hr lessons every week.

Our KS3 curriculum broadly follows the Model Music Curriculum, including a variety of eras from the Western Classical tradition, through to modern music such as Hip-Hop and EDM. Thanks to our state-of-the-art Mac suite, music technology is embedded into the curriculum, alongside the opportunity to sing and play a variety of instruments. Our KS3 Curriculum is regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure it best meets the needs of our students and it aligns with the Model Music Curriculum. More details can be found on the link above.

In KS4, pupils have the opportunity to study towards the Pearson BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice, and in KS5 pupils have the opportunity to study towards the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Digital Music Production. Again, further details can be found on the link above.

We strive to make our music both accessible and challenging to all learners, and further information on the academy's SEND provision can be found [here](#), and our Loyola programme for upper ability learners [here](#).

Part B: Extra-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.

For many years, St Edmunds Catholic Academy has worked in partnership with Wolverhampton Music Service, who provide one-to-one instrumental tuition on a variety of instruments, listed below. This is at a cost of £95 per term, with a 50% bursary available to Pupil Premium students. More information about these instrumental lessons can be found in this [letter to families](#). Tuition is available on the following instruments:

- Strings
- Woodwind
- Brass
- Keyboard
- Drumkit
- Vocals

We offer a range of clubs for students of all ages to attend, listed below and on our website [here](#):

- Academy Choir
- Faith Band (an integral part of our liturgical calendar)
- Music Club (individual practice and group rehearsal)
- Academy Musical

Our partnership with Wolverhampton Music Service also provides our students with access to a variety of city-wide ensembles, such as:

- Woodwind and Brass Groups
- String Groups
- Guitar Groups
- Dhol Groups
- Vocal Groups

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.

As a Catholic Academy, music, especially communal singing, plays a key role in our liturgical life, most notably in Mass, which happens roughly every term. All students are encouraged to sing, and opportunities to learn the hymns are included in our KS3 curriculum. Furthermore, our Faith Band and solo singers provide the music in Mass services and other events such as 'Stars of St Edmunds'.

We provide numerous opportunities to perform through our calendar of performance evenings, and our annual musical theatre production gives our students the opportunity to perform in well-known musical theatre shows, or help out in backstage or technical roles.

As well as opportunities for students to perform, we provide opportunities for students to see live performances as spectators, for example theatre trips and in-academy performances from Wolverhampton Music Service staff.

In the future

With a new Head of Performing Arts in post in 2024, the academy has a number of plans for the medium to long term future, which are summarised below:

- Increase the scope of instrumental, whole-class music-making as part of the KS3 curriculum through the purchase of more instruments and equipment such as ukuleles, guitars and drumkits. This will increase opportunities to learn about more diverse musical styles as part of the curriculum.
- Introduction of an academy recording studio to allow for high quality recordings to be made of students, and to further stretch and challenge KS5 Music Technology students.
- Introduction of an academy record label to share recordings with families and the community, and to grow aspirations for our students.
- Explore alternative courses for KS4 and KS5, for example GCSE Music and Level 3 Music Performance, to ensure we are best meeting the needs and aspirations of our students.
- Draw upon industry contacts to provide masterclass workshops for our students.

Further information

- [St Francis & St Clare Multi Academy Company](#)
- [Wolverhampton Music Service](#)