

Music development plan summary: Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' 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	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Grace English
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Bronach McConville
Name of local music hub	Havering Music School
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.


Curriculum time

'Music should have a minimum of one weekly period the whole way through Key Stage 3'¹

In Years 7 and 8, pupils have 3x 50 minute lessons per fortnight. In Year 9, pupils have 2x 50 minute lessons per fortnight. In KS4, pupils opting for Music GCSE have 5x 50 minute lessons per fortnight.

Curriculum

Our KS3 and KS4 curriculum information can be found here:

 Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School - Music Department SoW

¹ p3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-music-in-schools>

KS3 units follow a theme which unifies the skills and knowledge they are covering, with lessons that are sequenced to allow for a variety of listening and practical exercises which develops knowledge and skills linked through the unit title.

Our curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021) where all pupils develop in the following areas:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Performing/Instrumental Performance

Pupils have the opportunity during lesson time to develop their proficiency on the Piano/Keyboard, Ukulele, Percussion and Singing.

'Key Stage 3 also provides a route to being able to choose and succeed in further qualifications including GCSE'²

At the end of Year 9 and Year 11, pupils have the option to continue further study of Music by choosing GCSE/A Level Music. The exam board syllabus we study for GCSE Music and A Level Music is Eduqas.

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.

'Music enriches individual lives as well as a school's wider community'³

Instrument/Vocal lessons

At Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, we are fortunate to have excellent visiting music tutors who teach instruments/voice in one-to-one and small-group lessons.

Pupils have the opportunity to sign up for lessons via our local Music Hub ([Havering Music School](#)) on a wide variety of instruments. Currently, we have pupils having lessons on the following instruments with tutors from the Music Hub:

- Piano
- Violin
- Guitar

Additionally, we offer one-to-one vocal lessons taught by Rachele Russell.

Lesson costs for Havering Music School are as follows;

Bronze package (20 minute lesson for group of two) - £33.67 p/month

² p6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-music-in-schools>

³ p4 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-music-in-schools>

Silver package (15 minute individual lesson) - £56 p/month

Gold package (30 minute individual lesson) - £89.50 p/month

Each package includes additional support and resources.

Lesson costs for singing lessons with Rachele Russell are as follows;

10 x 30 minute lessons per term - £150

10 x 20 minute lessons per term - £105

Payment is either paid in full at the start of each term or can be split over two half terms.

Lesson subsidy

Pupils with pupil premium funding may be eligible for a subsidy or payment in full for instrument/singing lessons. Applications can be made by speaking to the Head of Music, Mrs G English (genglish@mary.havering.sch.uk).

Extra-curricular music

All pupils are encouraged to engage in our high standard extra-curricular music activities to further develop their musicality. The opportunities provided for them by the Music Department are wholly inclusive and free of charge.

Opportunities currently offered are:

- Orchestra
- Year 7 Choir (for pupils in Year 7 only)
- Choir
- Chamber Choir (for pupils in Year 8-13)
- Ukulele ensemble
- Music theory support

All of our Choirs and Ensembles perform in school and public throughout the year. More information on this can be found in Part C: Musical experiences.

Havering Music School

In addition to providing instrumental tutors, Havering Music School have a Saturday Music School where “a varied range of lessons and ensembles are available and pupils work to a timetable tailored to their individual needs, helping them reach the highest possible standard but with an emphasis on learning to play with other musicians”⁴. More information about the opportunities available via Havering Music School can be found on their website (linked in ‘further information’).

⁴ <https://www.haveringmusicschool.org.uk/music-centre/>

Instrument Loans:

Haverling Music School's instrument loan scheme allows children taking lessons as part of the school's teaching provision to see whether playing is for them without the cost of buying an instrument up front.

Over 1,000 instruments are available for loan at an annual cost of £45.50 (price correct at June 2024). Electrical instruments, pianos and percussion instruments are not available for hire. Instruments need to be collected from the music school and signed for.

Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme:

The Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme enables pupils at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School to purchase instruments without paying VAT. Further information and advice is available from the Music School.

Music facilities

At Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, we are fortunate to have a new music block which is separate to other buildings in the school. Within the block, there are two classrooms. One is fitted with Keyboards and is where most practical music making takes place. The other classroom has computers, desks and is where most GCSE/A Level music classes take place as well as theory/music technology lessons in KS3. There are five practice rooms which are open to pupils at break/lunch time to rehearse in small groups and are also used in lesson time as break out spaces. Pupils bringing in instruments to school can leave these in our instrument store cupboard.

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.

Our pupils enjoy performing and have opportunities throughout the academic year to perform in school and to the public. This has been separated into two categories; liturgical music and musical performances.

Liturgical music

'My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!

I will sing and make melody!' Psalm 57:7

The music and RE departments are intrinsically linked and work closely together. All pupils are invited to worship through the act of singing hymns in assembly and mass.

In the first half term of Year 7, pupils prepare in lesson time, singing together to practise for the Year 7 Mass of Welcome, a celebration and welcome to Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School which family members of our new Year 7 pupils are invited to attend.

In November, a public Remembrance Mass is held and the Chamber Choir performs a number of items throughout the evening.

In December, the annual Carol Service takes place at the local church, St. Joseph's. This event is always well attended by members of the school community and the public alike. The Year 7 Choir, Choir and Chamber Choir perform and the Orchestra accompanies the festive carols.

In the Spring term, we celebrate our school founders in our annual Founders Day Mass where the choir once again performs during the mass.

At the end of each term, a liturgy is held. In each liturgy, musicians are invited to perform; this varies from ensembles to soloists.

Musical performances

Every two years in the Autumn term, we celebrate the musical talents of our pupils in the House Music Festival. Our four houses (Lidisfarne, Rievaulx, Thanet and Whitby) compete to be the winning house. Each house performs a set song chosen by the music department in addition to repertoire chosen by the sixth form house prefects. This includes one instrument ensemble, a soloist and another song of their choosing. The event is largely pupil led, with support given from the music department staff. An external judge (in 2023, this was the head of the Music Hub) is invited to give feedback and choose the winning house.

In the Autumn term at Prize Giving, the music department provides musical interludes from the Choir, Chamber Choir and selected soloists.

In addition to their performances at the Carol Service, the Choir and Chamber choir take part in 'Charity Carol Singing' outside a local department store. In December 2023, we raised £468.53 in total including donations at the Carol Service for the charity Crisis.

In the Spring term, our Year 11 pupils perform their GCSE performance pieces to parents and gifted and talented Year 9 pupils. This is a fantastic opportunity to perform their pieces to a live audience.

At the end of the Spring term, the music department celebrates the talents of our pupils in the Spring Concert. All of Year 7 perform at the concert, as well as the Orchestra, Choir, Chamber Choir, Year 7 Choir and our Year 13 'senior soloists'. Our instrument/vocal tutors also attend, with varying solo/ensemble performances (in Spring 2024 this included the Havering Music School ensemble, Guitar duet and Rachele Russell singers).

In the Summer term, pupils have the opportunity to be part of the School Production (Frozen Jr. 2024). As well as the lead roles, pupils are encouraged to be part of the various singing and dancing ensembles. The Orchestra also performs on show nights.

Trips

Pupils involved in music extra-curricular activities are invited on a reward trip to see a musical in London's West End. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to see professional musicians, actors and singers on stage.

In October 2024, a group of gifted and talented Year 9 students will be invited to see Abba Voyage at the O2 Arena.

GCSE Music classes will be invited to watch a professional Orchestra in London, and/or small Chamber music performances at LSO St. Lukes.

In the future

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

- In 2024/5, the KS4 Schemes of Work will be updated to ensure teaching is rigorous and assessment fit for purpose.
- KS3 Schemes of Work will be reviewed, using 'student voice' feedback given by pupils in their end of year music review
- KS3 assessment language will be refined, using the KS4 performance and composition assessment as a model for KS3
- KS3 pupils will receive their assessment feedback via email rather than paper so they have a record of their achievement over the course of a year
- In the next two years, the music department will invest in MIDI Keyboards to improve opportunities for teaching using music technology
- In the next year, the music department will develop plans for trips/in school workshops that are inclusive for all pupils

Further information

Useful links:

[Music Hub - Havering Music School](#)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go for support beyond the school.

Head of Music - genglish@mary.havering.sch.uk