



All Saints Catholic High School

Music Development Plan

"We will provide a Christian Education for all pupils based on the teachings of Jesus and the Spirit of the Gospels. The whole life of the school will be determined by the Gospel Values of Love and Justice. We will always value and care for all members of the All Saints Community according to their needs, and will affirm and nurture the development of all"

School Mission Statement

Date Reviewed: September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2026

Overview

School music lead: **Miss E Wright**

Leadership team member with responsibility for music: **Mr J Stevens**

Name of local music hub: **Knowsley Music Service**

Part A: Curriculum Music

Our Vision

Every Child is Musical

All students at All Saints Catholic High School have the opportunity to play an instrument or receive vocal tuition. This tuition is funded by the school and is free of charge to our pupils. Students are encouraged to follow a graded system according to The London College of Music (LCM) and Trinity Rock School respectively. Lessons are available for piano, drums, guitar and string instruments. Each discipline is supported by extra curricular groups and performances to support ensemble musicianship. We aim to provide an outstanding standard of teaching and facilitate a high level of musical achievement for our students, taking full advantage of our superb facilities including pupils at KS3 having access to iMac computers working with Logic Pro software. As a school based in Knowsley, Liverpool, we hold dear the aspirations of our students by regular exposure to concerts by The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Liverpool Empire as well as enjoy excellent relations with Further Education establishments such as Edge Hill University.

At Key Stage 3, pupils follow an inclusive and diverse music curriculum designed to inspire and engage every learner. Covering a wide range of styles and traditions, from Musical Theatre to Samba, as well as opportunities for composition, our curriculum ensures that all pupils experience music in meaningful and exciting ways. We set high standards so that every child is encouraged and supported to develop into a confident and capable musician. With a balance of both theoretical understanding and practical performance, the curriculum provides a strong foundation in essential musical skills. This approach not only nurtures creativity and enjoyment but also prepares pupils thoroughly should they wish to continue their musical journey into Key Stage 4.

Pupils at KS4 have the option to study music further by following the OCR GCSE Music Course.

Our GCSE course in Music offers a broad and coherent course of study which encourages learners to:

- Engage actively in the process of music study
- Develop performing skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control of the resources used
- Develop composing skills to organise musical ideas and make use of appropriate resources
- Recognise links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising and how this informs the development of music
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity

- Develop knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians
- Develop awareness of a variety of instruments, styles and approaches to performing and composing
- develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music
- Recognise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop some awareness of musical chronology
- Develop as effective and independent learners with enquiring minds
- Reflect upon and evaluate their own and others' music
- Engage with and appreciate the diverse heritage of music, in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development.

The OCR GCSE Music specification is a linear course assessed at the end of Year 11 and is made up of three components: performing, composing and listening/appraising. Pupils complete both solo and ensemble performances and create two compositions, one free choice and one set to an OCR brief, which together make up 60% of the qualification, with the remaining 40% assessed through a listening and appraising exam based on a range of musical styles and Areas of Study such as film music, world music, classical traditions and popular music. The specification is designed to be flexible and inclusive, allowing students to perform on their own instrument or voice and compose in styles that reflect their musical interests, including music technology. This balance of practical and academic assessment benefits pupils by building confidence, creativity and teamwork through performance and composition, while also developing critical listening, analytical skills and musical understanding, making it a strong foundation for further study at A level study.

In order to take GCSE Music, pupils are required to play an instrument or sing (voice included) to a minimum of Grade 3 standard, in line with OCR requirements, as the course includes assessed solo and ensemble performances. At our school, pupils are supported in meeting this expectation through the opportunity to take instrumental or vocal lessons from Year 7 onwards, helping them to develop the technical skills, confidence and musical understanding needed to access and succeed in the GCSE Music course.

The KS4 overview of work may be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQS7wkPlfH-p3uvkzDSJUFR3TjHMOnw8MwGiA2mq8tEhlryl2QSjx3RKOH3ZM3UWFFEFET2Q2U9RZGE/pub>

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

All Saints offers instrumental and vocal lessons to all pupils. Access to tuition is provided to those pupils who excel in Extra Curricular activities. Pupils are taught in small groups up to and including Grade 1 level and then are taught on an individual basis.

Our extra-curricular groups are as follows:

- Monday lunchtime - Musical Theatre Group: Mrs Goulden (Singing Coach)
- Monday lunchtime- Pop Vocals Group: Mr Goulden (Vocal tutor)
- Tuesday lunchtime - Strings Ensemble: Mrs. Ireland (Strings Teacher)
- Tuesday Lunchtime - Samba Club: Mr White (Drum Tutor)

- Wednesday Lunchtime - Guitar Club: Mr Bates (Guitar Tutor)
- Wednesday Afterschool- Choir: Miss Wright
- Friday lunchtime - Music Club: Miss Wright

Part C: Musical Experiences

At All Saints this year (2026/2027) we have several musical events planned for the coming year. These included:

Advent Celebration - The Advent Showcase is a celebratory performing arts event that brings together students, families and the wider community during the Advent season. Held within the local community at St Josephs and St Laurences Church, the showcase provides an opportunity for musicians to share their talents in a warm, reflective setting. Musicians perform alongside dancers and drama students, creating a varied and engaging programme that highlights creativity, collaboration and the vibrant performing arts culture within the school.

KS3 Music Showcase - Students at KS3 will be given the opportunity to take part in a small open mic style concert for a small audience. This will enable our younger pupils to exhibit the performances they have been working on in an extra curricular setting. The concert is open to families and friends of all those who are performing and is free of charge to attend.

Musical Theatre Summer Show - each year in the summer term we hold our annual School show. This year both KS3 and KS4 will be able to partake.

Other performance opportunities - The school has a number of events where pupils are invited to perform as individuals and in groups. These events include Open Evening, Presentation Evening, Groups also perform in assemblies and we have a band and choir who provide music leading worship for our Mass and other liturgical services in the Church Year.

Trips to see professional musicians in concert - Each year we have opportunities for our pupils to see professional musicians in concert. We arrange throughout the year trips to see Musicals and concerts given by The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and The Empire Theatre.

Edge Hill University Trip - The Edge Hill University Trip offers KS4 pupils an exciting opportunity to experience a "day in the life of a recording studio" in a professional university setting. During the visit, pupils explore Edge Hill University's recording facilities and gain hands-on experience by taking on the roles of both performer and audio engineer. This enriching experience helps students develop practical music technology skills, deepen their understanding of the music industry, and see how classroom learning can link to further study and careers in music and sound production.

In the future...

In future years we are looking to push further our work in our primary schools and into the wider Kirkby and Liverpool community. Events such as:

The Big Sing - A wider singing project involving all of our primary schools to take part in a joint vocal concert involving all pupils in our school along with all pupils in Y6 from our feeder Primary Schools in Kirkby.

Music Trip (s) - We are looking into the possibility of taking some of our pupils on a residential trip to somewhere either in the UK or abroad. We are looking into venues that are in some way famed for music making and have a strong tradition of music.