

Music development plan summary: *St Julie's Catholic High School*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	25-26
Date this summary was published	01-09-26
Date this summary will be reviewed	01-09-27
Name of the school music lead	Peter Quinn
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Alice Douglas (<i>Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts</i>) Owen McGinn (<i>Line Manager of Performing Arts</i>)
Name of local music hub	Liverpool City Region (since 2024)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Resonate

Part A: Curriculum music

The music curriculum encompasses the three areas of performing, composing and appraising music.

Performing includes solo and ensemble singing, guitar, bass, handheld percussion and tuned percussion, drum kit, world instruments and keyboard performance. Ensemble performance on a range of instruments.

Composing includes graphic score composition, composing using notation in the treble and bass clef, song writing, creating cover versions of popular songs, arranging, and composing using technology (Sibelius / note flight).

Appraising includes relevant listening activities linked to the units studied alongside a programme of listening to music through the musical periods as guided by the Model Music Curriculum.

KS3

The curriculum is designed to gradually develop skills in the three areas of music (performing, composing and appraising) throughout KS3, building on what is taught in KS2 and the primary phase. Parts of the KS3 music curriculum are inspired by the MMC, particularly the listening programme. Pupils perform as soloists, in small groups and in large ensembles.

At KS3 we strive for learners to:

1. Play and perform confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using their voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy and expression
2. Improvise and compose; and extend and develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres, and traditions
3. Use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions

4. Identify and use the inter-related dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices
5. Listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians
6. Develop a deepening understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen, and its history.

These skills and techniques are delivered to learners through the following topics:

- Building Bricks (play instruments)
- Keyboard Skills (play instruments)
- I've Got Rhythm (play instruments and sing)
- Samba (play instruments)
- Sonority City (play instruments and sing)
- Form and Structure (play instruments and sing)
- Saharan Sounds (play instruments and sing)
- Offbeat (play instruments and sing)
- Folk Music (play instruments and sing)
- All That Jazz (play instruments and sing)
- All about the Bass (play instruments and sing)
- Hooks and Riffs (play instruments and sing)
- Dance Music (play instruments and sing)
- The Soundtracks (play instruments)
- Computer and Video game music (play instruments)
- 'What Makes a Good Song?' (play instruments and sing)

Music is offered to all students in Year 7 and 8 for 1 lesson a week. In Year 9 students complete 1 half term of music with 2 lessons a week.

Additionally, in Y7 and Y8 all students study 3 musical theatre modules (3 half terms) that combine dance, drama and music and offer the opportunity for ensemble singing. Furthermore, Y7 students complete Arts Award: Bronze with a musical theatre focus.

KS4

At KS4 students can select to continue with their music education and study OCR Music GCSE.

<https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/music-j536-from-2016/>

With an emphasis on musicality and practical music making, the course provides a contemporary, accessible, and creative education in music with an integrated approach to the three main elements – performing, composing, and appraising.

Students are encouraged to be creative and to broaden their musical horizons and understanding with five areas of study as they explore musical context, language, performance, and composition.

The specification is designed to appeal to, and cater for, a wide range of interests, instruments, personalities, and directions. It offers a range of opportunities to study diverse and traditional fields, with an integrated approach.

We want to encourage students to experiment in their own performing, composing, and listening as well as develop interest in and enthusiasm for all aspects of their musical heritage.

The course covers the following units:

- *Component 01/02: Integrated portfolio*
- *Component 03/04: Practical component*
- *Component 05: Listening and appraising.*

Students at KS4 have 3 lessons a week.

KS5

At KS5 students can select to continue studying music through Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Performing Arts (Music). <https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/performing-arts>

This course encourages students to achieve their potential and progress to the next stage of their lives, whether that's higher education, an apprenticeship or employment. The course offers an extensive range of centre assessed units with practical and wider project-based assessment opportunities, as well as examined units on prepare to work in the performing arts sector, proposal for a commissioning brief, influential performance practice, arts administration, and original performance has resulted in focused qualifications.

At St Julie's we have selected to study the following units

- Unit 1 Preparing to work in the Performing Arts Sector
- Unit 2C Proposal for a Commissioning Brief
- Unit 3 Influential Performance Practice.
- Unit 4 Combined Arts.
- Unit 8 Performing Repertoire.

Students at KS5 have 5 lessons a week.

Alongside curriculum opportunities all students have access to graded music exams in singing and instruments including:

- Singing (any style)
- Guitar, Bass
- Piano/Keyboard
- Strings
- Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
- Drum kit & Orchestral Percussion

St Julie's supports the funding of peripatetic music lessons for pupil premium students to ensure no student is disadvantaged.

At St Julie's, we work in partnership with Resonate, Liverpool City Region Hub, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Outside of the curriculum, St Julie's offers fantastic opportunities for students to learn and develop a passion for music.

Our team of self-employed musicians offer 1:1 and small group instrumental and vocal lessons to our pupils for a charge. Lessons are priced at £8 for a group lesson and £14 for an individual lesson. Lessons are taught during the

school day and are available to anyone wanting to learn the following instruments. Pupils who access pupil premium have subsidised lessons. Pupils can learn the following:

- Singing (any style)
- Guitar, Bass
- Piano/Keyboard
- Strings
- Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
- Drum kit & Orchestral Percussion

Pupils are encouraged to take graded music examination from a range of awarding bodies across grades 1 – 8 (ABRSM, Rock school, Trinity and Trinity Rock and Pop). The school pay form entries from grades 1- 3 and 50% of the fee from grades 4 – 8.

DJ'ing is currently being offered as 1-1 and small group tuition to a targeted group of disaffected pupils. This is a way of developing skills and supporting engagement in music and school.

St Julie's has a school choir for students from Y7-Y13. This is open to students of all ability (no audition) and is free of charge. They meet weekly to develop vocal techniques, gain skills in harmonising and preparing for events that they support and lead throughout the academic year. The choir regularly performs at whole school ceremonies and masses, competitions, and services in the local community such as 'Marie Curie's Light's to Remember' where their singing enhances the celebration.

Bands are celebrated at St Julie's with open mic nights and bands events that allows new and upcoming groups to share their work with friends and family. St Julie's hosts an annual Battle of the Bands night that allows local schools to come together and share their work. It is an inclusive event that is about celebrating, sharing, and learning from one another. It's often a highlight of the year for music students.

Each year, St Julie's produces 1 whole school musical. This is an auditioned based production that features students from Y7-13. The cast of approximately 100 students rehearse for 3 months 4 nights a week to produce a high-quality performance delivered over 3 nights with 4 performances. The production is enhanced by having a live student and staff band to accompany the show.

GCSE students benefit from after school composition club allowing students seek 1 to 1 support and intervention.

Working with our partnership, students are encouraged to join Resonate Music Studios which rehearses in Bellerive/Notre Dame weekly.

For the second year running we have secured £500 funding from the Arts Council to help develop a string group at St Julies. The funding will be used to pay for tuition to deliver teaching. From last years project, we have already noticed a greater uptake in private string lessons with 5 pupils now playing violin and cello at St Julies.

If students take instrumental lessons the school have several orchestral instruments which pupils can borrow and use. Resonate music hub also supply a small number of instruments to the school.

In Performing Arts students are lucky to have a wide range of spaces for regular rehearsals. With 2 music classrooms, 5 practice rooms and 1 recording studio, students fill the department with music. Students are welcomed to practice during break, lunch time and after school and are supported by staff and specialist equipment. Pupils are welcome to start their own groups, bands and ensembles and are given the space and opportunity to develop as musicians outside the classroom.

Part C: Musical experiences

Students at St Julie's are offered a range of musical experiences to support their love of music.

The following are events planned for this academic year:

Theatre Trips:

- Mary Poppins
- Matilda
- Woman in Black
- Dear England
- Red Shoes

Offered to selected students due to their commitment to Music. Pupil premium funding used to subsidise payment.

Production:

- Annie the Musical

Audition process for parts. Tickets go on sale for all students and parents across the school to have the opportunity to attend.

- KS3 showcase.

No audition process for parts. This is open to all KS3 students who would like to perform. Tickets go on sale for all students and parents across the school to have the opportunity to attend.

Band Nights:

- Halloween Open Mic Night
- Battle of the Bands

No audition process for Band Nights. This is open to all students (KS3/4/5) who would like to perform. Tickets go on sale for all students and parents across the school to have the opportunity to attend.

Choir Events:

- Marie Curie – Lights to Remember
- Prize Night
- Advent school service
- Easter school service
- Year 11 leavers service
- Year 13 leavers service

No audition process for choir. This is open to all students (KS3/4/5) who would like to perform. Soloist awarded parts based on skills and technique demonstrated in weekly rehearsals.

Residential Trips

- New York City – Musical theatre shows and workshops.
- London - Musical theatre shows and workshops.

Offered to selected students due to their commitment to Music. Pupil premium funding used to subsidise payment.

In addition to the calendar of regular events above, we support our PTA by performing at events throughout the year, supply music for Sports Days and are available for other one-off events that may take place. All pupils who are regular members of the extra-curricular groups perform in some/all the above.

In the future

In the future, St Julie's would like to expand their musical offering by hosting separate band and open mic nights to allow more students the opportunity to share their talents and grow in confidence.

As the school's string group develops, we would like to start an orchestra who would perform at celebrations across the year and perform in a Christmas concert.

We are looking to develop the cultural opportunities offered to students and would like to offer more music trips including opportunities to see live orchestras, singers and band.

Finally, we would like to look for more opportunities to bring music into our local community, supporting primary schools, singing at local supermarkets and Christmas and working in partnership with local nursing homes to enhance events they are hosting.