

Music development plan: St Michael's CE High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Philip White
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Caroline Hooley
Name of local music hub	Lancashire Music Hub
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, wider 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.

Music in the curriculum

Curriculum Intent

Music and the Performing Arts carry a high profile at St Michael's, welcomed and respected by governors, staff, parents and pupils as fundamental to "whole' education and the school's vision for pupils to 'grow in body, mind and spirit'. Our aim is to foster an appreciation of the arts through both a coherently planned curriculum of timetabled study and an extended curriculum alongside an engaging programme of multi-cultural music, cross curricular outreach and Christian Values Enrichment Days which promotes a creative ethos across the school. We intend that, through high quality presentations – worship, showcases, concerts, major productions and other school events, all pupils are able to experience music and the arts.

We aim for our pupils to leave St Michael's with a real appreciation that music offers a universal language through which a vision of human experience can be shared and that, through music, they can add their own voice to the chorus of mankind.

All pupils are taught Music throughout Years 7, 8 and 9 timetabled for 1 x 40/45-minute lesson per week. Pupils can then extend their musical interests in Years 10 - 11 by choosing to study music to GCSE level or to follow the vocational NCFE Technical Award in Music Technology.

Music is taught predominantly as a practical experience with pupils involved in music-making activities in all lessons (rehearsing, performing, composing or appraising) with emphasis on

"Music being the dominant language in the classroom". Differentiated tasks appropriate to individual ability and skills enable all pupils to be involved in lessons.

Pupils are encouraged to use their instrumental skills within classroom work and performance activities vary to accommodate pupil interests and abilities. The current curriculum covers a mix of western and multi-cultural traditions, compositional devices, popular music styles and music technology and keyboard skills.

Enrichment days and extensive opportunities beyond lesson time offer opportunities for pupils to further their interests, develop their talents, and, above all, have fun making music with others.

Learning schemes are available on the school website under Curriculum – Subjects – Music.

Wider curricular music

St Michael's offers the opportunity to learn instruments through 20-minute individual or group lessons. All orchestral instruments plus piano, keyboard, drumkit, voice and all guitar types are offered. Most lessons are run by members of Lancashire Music Service.

Lessons are paid for directly to the LMS or individual teachers.

Pupil Premium pupils are offered free lessons as part of their school provision where it is thought it would benefit their development.

St Michael's has a wide range of Wider Curricular groups. Information regarding these is available on the website under Curriculum – Wider Curricular activities. They include:

- Big Choir – Year 7-11 + staff
- Armstrong Choir – 7-9
- Hughes tutorial (Chapel Choir) – A tutorial for Years 10 + 11 (15 pupils from each year group following an audition)
- Wind Band – Years 7-11 including family, friends and ex pupils for our summer concert
- Strings Ensemble – Year 7-11
- Steel Pans Year 7-8
- Rock bands x 2. Year 9 -10
- There is a major school production every two years. Year 7-11
- Shakespeare Festival every 2 years Year 7-11

There is no charge for attendance at any school choir or ensemble.

All choirs and bands take place at a lunchtime and are free to join.

Hughes tutorial (Chapel Choir) is the only group which requires an audition to join.

The Armstrong choir is for KS3 pupils and Hughes tutorial for KS4. All other choirs and ensemble are available to all pupils.

There are 4 practice rooms alongside the main ensemble rooms where pupils can practise. Each room has a piano. There is also a recording studio with access to a drumkit, piano and mac computer.

Beyond school

St Michael's is the host to Lancashire Music Service larger ensembles including their Orchestra (LSSO), Jazz and Brass band, which take place each weekend. We also host LMS taster days and large events.

Stagecoach Musical Theatre group use the Performing Arts department for various age group meetings each week.

St Michael's school hall is a major venue for local music, drama, and dance events within the local community, including hosting a national brass band competition, local bands and orchestras as well as visiting professionals.

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.

Calendar	Performance Opportunity	Pupils Involved
September	7 Sept – Education Sunday	Hughes tutorial representing school at St George's Church
September	11 Sept – Open Evening	Worship band and Steel Pans +Music council
September	25 Sept – Christian Values Enrichment Day	Year 10 working with Bangdrum (external provider) on Brazilian carnival music and dance including Samba drumming.
September	Staff and Governors' Eucharist	Staff band play at this service
October	15 Oct Lunchtime Concert	Arranged by the Music Council
November		
December	4 Dec – Awards Evening 10 Dec – Community Carol Service 13 December – Carol Singing in Chorley Town Centre 17 Dec – Lunchtime Concert	Hughes / Worship band / Dance Hughes / Armstrong choirs Hughes tutorial / cast members Arranged by the Music Council

	Carols in the Quad 19 Dec – School Carol services	Whole school carol singing Hughes / Armstrong Choirs, Dance + Drama
January		
February	4 - 7 Feb – Production – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang West End Trip	Full cast, crew and musicians (around 100 performers all year groups) All year groups
March	17 March – Easter Services 25 March – Lunchtime Concert	Choirs + dance + drama Arranged by Music Council
April		
May	6 and 7 May – Introduction evenings 20 May – Lunchtime Concert	Year 7 musicians Arranged by the Music Council
June	25 June – Summer Arts Celebration	All choirs, bands, ensembles + drama + dance
July	22 July – End year services	Choirs + dance + drama

Lunchtime Concerts are on the school calendar and are to take place each half term.

Hughes tutorial, Worship Band and Armstrong Choir to support worship in weekly and the larger end of term services.

Carols in the Quad – all year groups singing.

Monday mornings – staff morning prayers are led by the Headteacher playing her guitar and staff singing a hymn

Community Carol Service at local church plus whole school carol services in the hall.

Easter services at a local church for whole school.

End of term (summer) services with all Year 7/8 pupils having music/dance input alongside choirs, band, drama and dance.

Summer Arts Concert in June (Cost of tickets usually £5 per adult)

Major School production – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (Cost of tickets around £10)

Matinee of production for primary schools – 300 pupils from our feeder schools from Year 5+6
West End Trip to see a musical is planned February 2026.
Links with UCLAN – Past pupil / Music technology.
Links with past pupil – Music Technology research.
Parent / staff band play at the Summer Arts Concert
Staff band play at Governors' Eucharist service in September

Music in the future

Our plans for music provision in the future include:

- To increase the number of pupils taking extra instrumental lessons.
- To increase number of pupils studying music after KS3.
- To increase participation in group music activities (bands / choirs etc).
- To further develop strong links with local primary schools and churches.
- Develop collaborative working with our local Secondary schools.
- To extend working with members of our Alumni

Further information

Links

Lancashire Music Hub (<https://www.lancashiremusichub.co.uk/site/>)

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 to for support beyond the school.