

Music development plan summary: St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	A Lockey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	J Britton
Name of local music hub	North East Music Hub (Music Connect Sunderland)
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, 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.

Current Provision KS3

- Students in KS3 currently receive 1 hour of music per week from Year 7-9
- All students in Y7 begin their St Anthony's music experience by developing keyboard skills and lessons focus on the mastery of the instrument

The key concepts are the musical elements which apply to all 3 skill areas: **Performing, Composing, Listening and Appraising:**

- Musical notation
- Dynamics
- Rhythm, Tempo and Metre
- Structure

- Melody
- Instrumentation
- Texture
- Harmony and Tonality

Keyboard is the main instrument in our curriculum-based teaching:

- Year 7: Introduction to basic keyboard skills, understanding treble clef musical notation, and performing simple melodies in the right hand.
- Year 8: Intermediate keyboard techniques, playing chords, and reading more complex pieces. Two handed keyboard performance is introduced or developed.
- Year 9: More advanced keyboard skills, development of more complex key signatures and performance expression.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

- Disabled Pupils: We provide adaptive instrumental techniques to ensure accessibility. Pupils are provided for on a case by case basis and different instruments are available in class.
- SEND Support: Pupils with SEND are encouraged to be fully engaged with the music curriculum and individual adaptations are made by classroom teachers.

Partnerships and External Support

We maintain a strong partnership with the North East Music Hub, particularly Music Connects Sunderland, which provides additional resources, specialist peripatetic teachers, and opportunities for pupils to participate in additional music events such as local hub ensembles.

- Collaboration with the local music hub enriches our curriculum through workshops, masterclasses, and performance opportunities.
- We collaborate with all schools across Bishop Chadwick Trust to enable further opportunities for performance.

This development plan ensures that our music education at KS3 is inclusive, comprehensive, and aligned with national standards, providing all pupils with the opportunity to develop their musical abilities and enjoy the benefits of a well-rounded education.

Current Provision KS4

- As part of the options process, students choose to study GCSE Music
- Y10 and 11 students study the AQA GCSE Music specification
- Students in Y10 and 11 currently receive 5 hours of music per fortnight

The AQA GCSE Music specification at KS4 is divided into three main components:

- Performing Music (30%): Students perform as soloists and as part of an ensemble. This component assesses technical control, expression and interpretation. This can be on any instrument pupils have learned at KS3, in peripatetic lessons or private tuition. To meet the highest marks for demand, students need to perform a piece at Grade 5 standard.

- **Composing Music (30%):** Students create two compositions, one of which is a free composition and the other responding to a set brief by AQA. This component evaluates creativity, use of musical elements and technical control.
- **Understanding Music (40%):** This component involves analysing study pieces set by AQA (Y10 and 11: Music of Queen and Beethoven Symphony No.1, 1st Movement). Students also develop analytical and listening skills in Western Classical Tradition, 20th Century, Pop Music, Film/Game Music, Blues, Reggae, African (Fusion), Traditional Music and Latin Music.

Opportunities for Progression

- **Post-16 Education:** Students can continue their music education through A Level Music. This course builds on the foundation laid at KS4 and prepares students for higher education or careers related to music.

Resources and Facilities

- **Specialist Music Rooms:** Equipped with pianos and access to various other musical instruments.
- **Instrumental Lessons:** Offered by visiting specialist teachers for various instruments, supporting students' practical skills development. All tuition is funded for pupils taking GCSE music.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities:** Students are encouraged to participate in school ensembles, orchestras, and choirs, and to take leadership roles in organising music events and productions.

Our KS4 music program, aligned with the AQA Music Specification, provides a robust and inclusive pathway for students to develop their musical talents, achieve recognized qualifications, and prepare for further musical endeavours.

Current Provision KS5

- As part of the options process, students choose to study A Level Music
- Y11 and 12 students study the AQA A Level Music specification
- Students in Y12 and 13 currently receive 5 hours of music tuition each week

The AQA A Level Music specification at KS5 is divided into three main components:

- **Performing Music (35%):** Students perform as soloists, or as part of an ensemble. This component assesses technical control, expression and interpretation. To meet the highest marks for demand, students need to perform a piece at Grade 8 standard.
- **Composing Music (25%):** Students create two compositions, one of which is a free composition and the other responding to a set brief by AQA. This component evaluates creativity, use of musical elements and technical control.
- **Understanding Music (40%):** This component involves appraising, developing and demonstrating in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical

contexts and musical language. Students study Western Classical Tradition, including key set works within the genres of Baroque: the solo concerto and Romantic: the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg. Students also study music from two other areas of study – Music for Media and Music for Theatre.

Opportunities for Progression

- Higher Education: Students are well-prepared for university courses in music, music technology, and related fields.
- Career Pathways: Graduates may pursue careers in performance, composition, music education, music therapy, and the wider creative industries.
- Extra-Curricular Activities: Students are encouraged to participate in school ensembles, orchestras, and choirs, and to take leadership roles in organising music events and productions.

Resources and Facilities

- Music Rooms: Equipped with computers, composition software and access to a variety of specialist instruments depending on need through the Music Hub.
- Instrumental and Vocal Lessons: Provided by specialist tutors to support advanced performance skills. Individual tuition is funded for all A Level music students.

Our KS5 music program, following the AQA A Level Music specification, offers a tailored and robust education that supports students' individual talents and aspirations, providing them with the skills and qualifications necessary for further education and professional success in music.

Links to current school curriculum for music:

<https://st-anthonys-academy.com/our-curriculum/curriculum-plans/music>

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.

Peripatetic Tuition

We have a team of talented and dedicated self-employed musicians who offer peripatetic lessons from Year 7-13.

All students have access to small-group tuition in a wide range of instruments. We currently have over 190 students accessing peripatetic lessons on a regular basis.

Lessons are 30 minutes long and are on a rota timetable, throughout the school day.

- Tuition is funded for students who opt for GCSE or A Level Music and at A Level, these are individual lessons.

Current costs

Students receive 10 lessons each term, £9 per lesson.

- Payments are charged each half term and are paid via parent pay to the school.
- Funding is available for pupil premium and looked after students.

There is no charge for instrumental loans. We have a selection of instruments available and Music Connects Sunderland offer support for additional instruments, where needed.

Mr Brown (Monday, Thursday and Friday):

Piano, Guitar, Drums, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Brass

Mrs King (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday):

Singing

Mrs Barton-Gray (Wednesday):

Violin, Cello, Piano

Mrs Moskowitz (Thursday):

Violin

Ms Deans (Wednesday):

Harp

Extra-Curricular Music

Students have the opportunity to join various ensembles and music groups outside of lesson time:

Junior Choir (Year 7 and 8) – Monday lunchtimes

Grade 5 Music Theory Club (All year groups) - Monday lunchtimes

Senior Choir (Year 9-13; auditioned members) – Monday 3-4pm

Sixth Form Chamber Choir (Y12 and 13; self-led by Y13 students) – Monday 4-4.30pm

Annual School Production: Sister Act 2027 (All year groups, auditioned students) – Thursday 3-4.30pm

Arts Award (Bronze, Silver and Gold Qualifications) – Tuesday lunchtimes

Orchestra (All instrumentalists) – Thursday lunchtimes

All ensemble memberships are free and all pupils are encouraged to join regardless of skill level. Pupils should sign up with Miss Lockey, Mrs Dudley or Mrs Tomlin in the Music Department.

Weekend and After School Provision:

Sunderland Youth Orchestra (Music Connects Sunderland): Offers additional tuition and ensemble practice. This is open to students of all abilities and can be accessed by speaking to Miss Lockey or our peripatetic teachers.

Sunderland Youth Choir (Music Connects Sunderland): Offers additional performance opportunities for young people to sing and perform across the city, with support from National Youth Choir of Great Britain. This is open to students aged 7-16 of all abilities and rehearsals take place on Monday evenings at City Hall.

- Students have the opportunity to engage with Young Musician's Project and at the Bunker.
- After School Clubs: Senior Choir, Sixth Form Chamber Choir, Annual School Production and Orchestra rehearsals occur after school.

Qualifications and Awards

- Students can prepare for graded music exams with ABRSM, LCM, Trinity and Rockschoo) with all peripatetic instrumental teachers.

Y9-13 students can choose to earn the Duke of Edinburgh's Award with a focus on music.

All students can choose to earn their Bronze, Silver or Gold Arts Award.

Rehearsal and Practice Facilities

Our rehearsal room is usually in use for peripatetic tuition throughout the day. This can be used before and after school at the discretion of Music department staff.

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.

Performance Opportunities

- Students are invited to take part in our Christmas and Summer Concerts. These performances allow our musicians the opportunity to perform to an audience of parents, friends, family and staff, as well as members of our wider community.

In addition, we have our annual school musical productions in the Spring Term. Students audition in September and can take on a principal or ensemble role, be involved backstage, front of house or in the band. Past productions include; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Oliver, Into The Woods, Calamity Jane, A Musical Cabaret, The Sound of Music, Guys and Dolls, School of Rock, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr, Annie Jr, Mary Poppins Jr and Matilda Jr.

- Families can purchase tickets for all concerts and musicals via Parent Pay, proceeds help to support the Music department to fund future productions.
- Students often showcase their talents in school-wide performances, including end of term liturgies and assemblies, as well as school open evenings.
- Students have the opportunity to take part in annual trust performances with other schools in the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust. Previous performances include: Footsteps into Paradise, Trust Carol Service, Joy in my heart and whole trust and Diocesan Masses. This allows opportunities for students to work with their peers from other schools, fostering teamwork and collaboration and developing our Catholic Ethos as a school.

Educational Visits

- Our Senior Choir often perform at a range of events throughout the North East, some of their recent opportunities include:

North East Festival of Youth Choirs, The Glasshouse and Durham Cathedral

Citizenship Ceremonies at City Hall, Sunderland

Sunderland Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Concerts

Christmas Singing at Sainsbury's, Silksworth

- Riverside Christmas Market, City Hall
- Oaklea Convent Carol Service
- Senior Choir Carol Service, St Mary's RC Church (event fundraising for St Benedict's Hospice)
- Remembering Srebrenica Service, Sunderland Minster

We regularly organise educational visits to the Sunderland Empire and The Fire Station to attend a range of performances, such as a GCSE visit to listen to Mozart's Clarinet Concerto performed by the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

Our instrumentalists had the opportunity to partake in a Big Play Day at Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, where they formed an orchestra with over 200 other young performers from across the North East.

We have strong links with Samling Academy and National Youth Choir, allowing our students opportunities to perform and engage with both of these fantastic services.

Recently, our Senior Choir have toured Paris and Belgium, performing in prestigious venues including Disneyland, La Madeleine and the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate. Our Senior

Choir have a strong history of choir tours throughout Europe, including performances at prestigious venues in Amsterdam, Paris, London, Dublin, Salzburg, Venice and Rome.

We offer lots of opportunities for students to explore future careers within the creative industry, such as the Creative Careers Day, Sunderland, Futures in Music at Newcastle University, Economics of Music at Newcastle University.

As a trust, our students have access to wider opportunities, such as the latest trust musical 'No More Sleeping', which will take place in September 2026.

Some of our educational visits require a fee to cover ticket prices etc.

In conclusion, our music development plan for the academic year 2026-2027 aims to provide students with a rich and diverse range of musical experiences both within and outside of the school environment. By fostering a culture of musical participation, collaboration, and inclusivity, we strive to nurture the musical talents and appreciation of all our students.

In the future

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

New developments for 2026-2027

Continue to develop wider opportunities and form stronger links with our trust feeder primary schools.

Introduce music leadership roles for students.

Continuation of regular concert trips – expand this to cover all year groups (e.g. Musical visit for the cast and crew).

Increase in the frequency and variety of visiting musicians – liaise with Music Connects Sunderland for further opportunities.

Continue to be recognised as a Music Mark School.

Continue to build on the range of opportunities for students to gain insights into careers in the creative industry.

New developments for 2027-2028

Form successful links with alumni students to offer support in pursuing further education.

Build on links with trust feeder primary schools to create singing opportunities for these students, whilst offering leadership opportunities for our students.