

St George's School, A Church of England Academy
Music Development Plan



Detail	Information
Academic Year Covered	2024 - 2025
Date Published	January 2025
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School Music Lead	Tom Hobbs
Local Music Hub	Blackpool Music Service

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Part A: Curriculum Music

Music is held in high regard at St George's and contributes to our broad, ambitious and aspirational curriculum. Through studying a wide range of topics and learning a variety of skills in Key Stage 3 music, students are able to develop into well-rounded musicians with an appreciation of all forms of music. There is then an opportunity for students to extend their musical knowledge and skills through the option of studying GCSE music at Key Stage 4. Studying music is more than simply performing, creating and listening to it. Music gives students an opportunity to not only develop as musicians, but it provides them with transferable skills that are vital for life beyond the classroom no matter what pathway students choose to pursue as a career. The study of music also promotes the development of confidence which supports the St George's vision of equipping our pupils to navigate a constantly changing society. The music department at St George's is a hub for creativity, expression, passion and a community that is woven into the fabric of our school.

Pupils in Key Stage 3 receive a 1 hour timetabled curriculum music lesson per week. In addition to this, there are many opportunities for pupils to participate in enrichment activities beyond their timetabled curriculum lessons. These electives are detailed below.

The main areas of focus in the study of music at St George's are performing, composing and appraising, with the musical elements sitting at the heart of what pupils study. Pupils learn the language of music through a focus on the elements of music, key musical terminology and understanding how to read music notation. Pupils learn how to sing, play the keyboard, guitar and a variety of other instruments. There is also a focus on composition and the use of music technology to create original compositions. Pupils engage in listening and appraising activities to analyse a wide range of musical pieces and apply their knowledge to written questions.

The design of the music curriculum is bespoke to St George's and has been developed using the following documents:

National Curriculum:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c869440f0b62aff6c2499/SECONDARY_national_curriculum_-_Music.pdf

Model Music Curriculum:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6061f833d3bf7f5ce1060a90/Model_Music_Curriculum_Full.pdf

National Plan for Music Education:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62bc1242d3bf7f292040d364/The_Power_of_Music_to_Change_Lives.pdf

Key Stage 3 Music

Curriculum Sequencing

Key Stage 3		Sequencing
Year 7	Half Term 1	The Language and Building Blocks of Music (reading music notation and appraising) Music Notation and Keyboard Skills (reading music notation and performing)
	Half Term 2	Music Notation and Keyboard Skills continued. (reading music notation and performing)
	Half Term 3	Rhythm and Minimalism (reading music notation, composing and using music technology)
Year 8	Half Term 1	Developing Keyboard Skills (reading music notation and performing)
	Half Term 2	The Beauty of Baroque (reading music notation and performing)
	Half Term 3	Pop Song Composition (composing and using music technology)
Year 9	Half Term 1	Club Dance (composing and using music technology)
	Half Term 2	Hooks and Riffs - Advanced Keyboard Skills (reading music notation and performing)
	Half Term 3	Film Music (composing and using music technology)

Key Stage 4 Music

At Key Stage 4, pupils who opt for music study the Eduqas GCSE specification. The curriculum sequencing below has been developed with reference to the Eduqas GCSE Music specification -

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/by5boopf/eduqas-gcse-music-spec-from-2016-d.pdf>

Key Stage 4		Sequencing		
		Performing (Component 1)	Composing (Component 2)	Appraising (Component 3)
Year 10	Term 1	Comp 1: Ensemble Performance - Performing in Front of Others.	Comp 2: Introduction to Composition - Melody, Harmony, Rhythm and Musical Devices.	Comp 3: Area of Study 1 - Musical Forms and Devices (Prepared Extract).
	Term 2	Comp 1: Ensemble Performance - Performing in a Specific Musical Style.	Comp 2: Composing a Homophonic Musical Piece.	Comp 3: Area of Study 4 - Popular Music (Prepared Extract).
	Term 3	Comp 1: Mock Performances - Solo and Ensemble.	Comp 2: Free Composition.	Comp 3: Area of Study 2 - Music for Ensemble. Area of Study 3 - Film Music.
Year 11	Term 1	Comp 1: Solo Performance Recording.	Comp 2: Free Composition (Completion). Composing to a Brief.	Comp 3: Area of Study 1 - Musical Forms and Devices (Prepared Extract). Area of Study 2 - Music for Ensemble.
	Term 2	Comp 1: Ensemble Performance Recording.	Comp 2: Composing to a Brief (Completion).	Comp 3: Area of Study 4 - Popular Music (Prepared Extract). Area of Study 3 - Film Music.
	Term 3			Comp 3: Exam Preparation.

SEND Provision

At St George's, we understand that music is for everybody and believe that all students should have access to music. We closely follow the advice of the National Plan for Music to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to study music.

“Our vision is to enable all children and young people to learn to sing, play an instrument and create music together, and have the opportunity to progress their musical interests and talents, including professionally.”

(A National Plan for Music Education, 2022)

- Music is not selective. It has no boundaries, therefore it is important that all pupils have the opportunity to experience the very best music education regardless of background or educational needs.
- Music should be inclusive and the music curriculum is designed to be accessible to all yet also challenging.
- At St George's, we aim to remove any barriers that might prevent pupils from accessing high quality music education.
- Pupils can access music through the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 curriculum, but they can also choose to study music beyond the classroom through opting for music electives, taking up performance opportunities and opting for one-to-one instrumental lessons.
- We encourage all pupils to engage with as many opportunities as possible to learn and create music.
- Studying music at St George's plays a large role in helping us to achieve our Academy mission to **“play our part in removing the educational disadvantage currently experienced by those born into economic deprivation.”**

In music, we support all pupils to succeed, regardless of their academic ability. The Academy SEND policy is followed in lessons which can be found using the following link -

[https://files.schudio.com/st-george-s-school-cofe-academy/files/documents/STG_SEND_Policy_2024_25\(1\).pdf](https://files.schudio.com/st-george-s-school-cofe-academy/files/documents/STG_SEND_Policy_2024_25(1).pdf)

Part B: Co-Curriculum Music

Blackpool Music Service and Instrumental Music Lessons

At St George's, we offer instrumental tuition and pupils can have lessons on a wide range of different instruments. We utilise the peripatetic music teachers from Blackpool Music Service who come into school every week. Below are the details of which instruments we offer lessons for and which day of the week each instrument is taught. All instrumental lessons take place after school so as not to disrupt pupils' learning during the school day.

Instrument	Day Lessons Take Place
Guitar (acoustic, electric and bass)	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
Drum kit	Monday
Piano/keyboard	Tuesday and Wednesday
Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone)	Tuesday
Brass (cornet, trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, tuba)	Wednesday
Voice	Friday

Pupils can choose to have one-to-one individual lessons or group lessons.

Option 1 - Individual Lessons

A 20-minute one-to-one lesson every week = £12 per lesson

Option 2 - Group Lessons

A 20-minute group lesson every week = £5 per lesson

Graded Exams

Pupils have the opportunity to work towards graded exams in their instrumental lessons if they wish to. Pupils can work towards a qualification on an instrument from a variety of different exam boards including ABRSM, Trinity and Rock School. Pupils who are at the start of their musical journey on a specific instrument can also work towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold Music Medals offered by Blackpool Music Service.

Electives

Music is a major part of the extra-curricular programme at St George's, contributing to the wider school community. For example, successful music electives, the annual school show, performance opportunities during worship, local Blackpool schools' events, such as Schools Alive, and music concerts all play a part in contributing towards our unique Christian school community.

Below are examples of the electives and enrichment opportunities in music that have either previously been offered or are planned to be offered in the future.

Elective	Description
Choir/Vocal Group	An opportunity for any pupil to develop their singing skills with other vocalists, working on a variety of traditional and popular choral pieces. Working towards performing these to an audience.
Keyboard Club	A lunchtime club where pupils can use the keyboards in the music room to develop their keyboard performance skills.
Friday Music Club	An open door elective where pupils can come after school to engage in a variety of musical activities. From composing using the chromebooks, to practicing the drums or guitar.

Percussion Group	An opportunity for pupils to work on percussion and rhythmic musical pieces on a variety of percussion instruments in a group.
Guitar Group	Guitarists can come together to exchange ideas, teach peers and work on group guitar pieces.
Musical Theatre	Pupils rehearse twice a week in the lead up to the annual school show where pupils develop their singing, acting and dancing skills.

Part C: Musical Experiences

At St George's, we are determined to offer a wide-range of musical experiences to our pupils. We have numerous performance opportunities throughout the year. All pupils are welcome to take part and attend these experiences. Many of these opportunities come from pupils attending electives and music groups, however, all pupils are invited to attend these clubs and therefore these musical experiences are open to all. Many of these experiences are free of charge, although we sometimes ask pupils to pay towards performance or theatre trips where they would be a member of the audience.

Royal Foundation Community Carol Service	As a Church of England Academy, we perform at the annual Royal Foundation Community Carol Service in Blackpool, leading the singing of the carols. A mixture of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils represent St George's at this event.
Collective Worship Performances	This provides an opportunity for musicians to perform in weekly collective worship in the chapel. Either as pupils enter or leave the chapel, or leading the music as pupils sing worship songs.
Blackpool Music Service Schools Alive	St George's performs at the annual Schools Alive event at the Blackpool Opera House hosted by Blackpool Music Service. There are a variety of schools from Blackpool that also perform at this event and each school produces a 12-minute performance. The performance usually

	includes singing, acting and dancing and pupils perform to a capacity audience.
Annual School Production	At St George's, we perform a well-known musical theatre show every year. The performances are held over three nights with parents, friends, pupils and members of the public attending. In 2024, we performed Grease. In 2025 we will be performing Matilda Jr.
Blackpool Music Service Pop Idol Competition	Two pupils, one from Key Stage 3 and one from Key Stage 4 are entered into this competition every year to compete against pupils from other Blackpool Schools. A Key Stage 4 pupil from St George's won the competition in 2024.
Blackpool Musician of the Year Competition	Pupils are entered into this competition which is aimed at instrumentalists who compete against pupils from other local Blackpool schools.
Summer Showcase	In the summer term, St George's holds a performance evening showcasing the talents of our pupils. The performances within this event are predominantly music performances, both by soloists and music ensembles. There are also drama and dance performances. This is open to friends, family and members of the public to watch.

In addition to these annual events, we regularly look for opportunities for pupils to experience professional concerts and theatre shows in the North West. We take advantage of Blackpool's rich performing arts history and the famous theatres on our doorstep.

Part D: Into the Future

At St George's we are aspirational and determined to provide the best opportunities for our pupils to succeed. There are many initiatives we wish to implement in the music department.

Curriculum - We have worked hard to develop the music curriculum in the past year and this is constantly evolving. We take every opportunity to reflect on the curriculum and we will continue to do this to ensure the curriculum is relevant and beneficial for pupils to succeed in music. Alongside the curriculum, there are curriculum booklets. These have also been developed over the past year and are regularly reviewed inline with the curriculum. We wish to continue to develop the curriculum to ensure it is of the highest standard.

Co-curriculum and Extra-curricular Opportunities - There have been a lot of new co-curriculum and extra-curricular activities implemented over the last 18 months. This will continue to develop to address the needs of our pupils. New opportunities will be made available. It is the aim that we increase the numbers of pupils participating in these enrichment programmes. The annual school production continues to grow year on year and it is vital that we continue to increase the number of participants and the audience numbers to cement St George's as a beacon of excellence within the performing arts.

Instrumental Tuition - A brand new instrumental tuition programme was launched in September and the objective is to ensure we have as many pupils participating in instrumental tuition as possible, removing any barriers that may be in place that prevent pupils from taking part and that all pupils have the opportunity to learn an instrument, regardless of background and status.