

Curriculum Intent for Expressive Arts

"Cultivating creativity, practising excellence, empowering confidence".

At St Marys Catholic High School, our Expressive Arts curriculum is driven by our commitment to developing well-rounded, creative, and confident students. We believe that the arts are a fundamental part of human experience, providing a unique means of expression, connection, and growth. Through a dynamic and inclusive curriculum, we aim to foster imagination, develop skill, and nurture a passion for the arts in every student.

Cultivating Creativity:

We believe that creativity is a powerful tool for personal and collective growth. Our curriculum is designed to inspire students to think critically and innovatively, providing opportunities to explore new ideas and perspectives. In Music, Art, and Drama, students are encouraged to experiment, take risks, and develop original work. Whether composing a piece of music, designing an art installation, or devising a theatrical performance, students are guided to explore their creativity with confidence and curiosity.

Practising Excellence:

We are dedicated to cultivating a culture of excellence within the arts. Our curriculum provides students with a thorough grounding in the technical skills, knowledge, and disciplines necessary to excel in Music, Art, and Drama. Through rigorous practice, rehearsal, and refinement, students will develop mastery over their chosen art forms. We set high expectations and provide regular opportunities for students to showcase their work in school and within the wider community, promoting a professional attitude towards their creative practices.

Empowering Confidence:

The arts are a powerful vehicle for personal expression and self-confidence. Our curriculum is designed to empower students to find their unique voice and develop the confidence to express themselves. Whether through performing in front of an audience, presenting artwork in a gallery, or sharing compositions, students will build resilience and self-assurance. We foster an environment where all students feel valued, supported, and encouraged to pursue their artistic passions, regardless of their starting point. Through positive reinforcement, teamwork, and reflective practice, we aim to empower students to overcome challenges, embrace their talents, and take pride in their achievements.

Broad Curriculum Aims:

1. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Our curriculum ensures that all students, regardless of background or ability, can access and enjoy the arts, allowing for both collaborative and individual growth.
2. **Cultural Awareness and Appreciation:** Through exposure to diverse cultures, historical contexts, and contemporary practices, students will gain an

understanding of the global impact of the arts and develop cultural awareness.

3. **Personal Development:** Our curriculum promotes critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and communication skills that transcend the arts and contribute to students' overall academic and personal success.

Through Music, Art, and Drama, we aim to cultivate the creative leaders of tomorrow, ensuring that every student leaves our school with the artistic skills, confidence, and ambition to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Staffing

Mrs B Watson – Head of Expressive Arts and Music Teacher

Miss K Gannon – Teacher of Music and Drama

KS3 Music

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Let's Perform Together 4 songs with accompaniment	Rhythm is a Dancer Exploring dance music from Renaissance to present day	Soundtracks
I've Got Rhythm	Riffs, Hooks and Ostinatos	Video Game Music – Composition 3
The Major Chord, the Minor Lift Composition 1	Variations – Composition 2	Let's Perform Together – Ensemble Skills 3
Keyboard Skills 1	Blues – Keyboards 2	All About That Bass – Keyboards 3
Ensemble Skills 1	Let's Perform Together – Ensemble Skills 2	I Feel A Song Coming On – Opera and Musicals

KS4 Music

	Year 10	Year 11
HT1	Music Theory/Musical Forms & Structure	Composition/Performance
HT2	Popular Music/Controlled Assessment Skills	Composition/Performance
HT3	Music For Ensemble/Controlled Assessment Skills	MAD T SHIRT/Units 1 & 2
HT4	Music for Film/Controlled Assessment Skills	MAD T SHIRT/Units 3 & 4
HT5	MAD T SHIRT/Controlled Assessment Skills	Exam Preparation
HT6	Composition/Performance	

Music development plan summary:

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25. This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	21/02/2025
Name of the school music lead	Beth Watson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mike Weaver
Name of local music hub	Lancashire
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.

The curriculum is planned with consideration for transition taking into account the expectation of the KS3 curriculum and planning in collaboration with local primary schools. The curriculum draws from elements of the model music curriculum (March 2021) and is adapted to suit the needs of our pupils and facilities that we have available. The department has a bespoke assessment policy that assesses musically and appropriately and is in alignment with school assessment strategy.

Our curriculum is skills based, progressing each unit and with links across each academic year at KS3. Pupils learn through whole class teaching to read traditional notation, perform on the keyboards, ukuleles and djembe, and to compose in specific forms. Pupils follow a "listening curriculum" which is how every lesson starts, allowing pupils to experience a wide range of musical styles and genres and to tacitly recognise the elements of music and how they are being used.

Curriculum music has the minimum of one weekly session per year group throughout the year, 1 hour each session. All curriculum music lessons take place in a specialised music environment.

Singing is embedded into KS3 schemes of work, including the teaching of healthy singing. Specific songs are linked to each scheme of work and pupils sing every lesson at KS3.

At KS4 pupils follow the GCSE EDUQAS specification. Pupils have the opportunity to study for instrument specific grades throughout their school life, along with Grade 5 music theory which is tutored in the department.

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.

All pupils have access to opportunities to learn to play an instrument of their choice. We have appointed our own in-house team of experienced peripatetic teachers, and currently offer lessons on piano, voice, guitar, drums and woodwind. We are looking to expand this offering out to include brass and strings.

All GCSE Music pupils are offered instrumental lessons free of charge.

Year 7 pupils who receive Pupil Premium funding are offered instrumental lessons free of charge. Pupils in all years can apply to use part of their Pupil Premium funding to fund instrumental lessons.

Currently 87 pupils receive instrumental lessons in school, 11.4% of the school population. This tuition is on site and the figure does not include pupils who receive instrumental tuition outside of school. Our aim is to bring this to 15% of the schools population.

The music department offers the following ensembles for pupils take part in:

Choir

Harmony Group

Ukulele Group

Brass group

Woodwind Group

Rock bands

All musical ensembles are provided free of charge and are open to all pupils, except for Harmony group which is based on current ability due to the nature of the repertoire. Rehearsals take place at lunchtimes and after school.

Additional opportunities are given for pupils to rehearse independently on their chosen instrument at breaks in the school day and after school.

The department provides space for pupils to rehearse or practice individually or in groups in our practice rooms and additional teaching space. This can be booked out by pupils at breaktime, dinner and after school each day.

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.

As a school, singing is an integral part of our daily worship and as such, we sing each day in assemblies.

Pupils are given regular opportunities to perform throughout the school year, with the following concerts planned for year 2024 – 25:

December – Year 7 concert – all Year 7 pupils to perform

December – Christmas Concert – all musical ensembles to perform

February – Band Night – selected KS3 performances

April – GCSE Performance Evening – GCSE Music pupils

July – Summer Arts Festival. – all musical ensembles to perform.

Audiences are invited into school for all of the above events. Additionally the pupils are invited to be part of the audience to support each other and provide further opportunities to see live music. Tickets are free.

We also run school productions – auditions are held and parts are open to anyone across the school.

We have strong links with 2 Post 16 providers and attend performances at their campus. This last year we visited Westholme School to watch Les Miserables, and Runshaw College to watch their A Level Performance Evening.

Enrichment trips to see live performances take place each term. So far, this academic year 2 have taken place.

Within school, we are providing music workshops on African Drumming and Piano Masterclasses.

In the future

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

- 1. Developing use of Music Technology at KS3. Whilst this is a cornerstone of our work at KS4, our facilities do not allow for use at KS3. This year we aim to develop our composition units to be ICT based with improved computers and midi keyboards in the*

designated music classroom.

- 2. Increase numbers of pupils receiving instrumental tuition to 15% of the schools population (numbers to include pupils who receive lessons outside of school provision).*
- 3. Increase opportunities for pupils to see live music – through trips and through visiting ensembles to school.*
 - Develop ensemble provision with the development of Woodwind Group, Djembe Ensemble and Guitar Ensemble. Performance opportunities for all ensembles to be provided at main concerts.*