

# St Katherine's School music development plan

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	January 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2027
Name of the school music lead	Abigail Adams
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Matthew Maw
Name of local music hub	WEMA
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 what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

- At KS3, all pupils have two hours of timetabled music lessons per fortnight, these lessons are taught in music specialist rooms.
- At KS4 music is an option subject.
- We currently have one class in Year 10 and one in Year 11 taking GCSE music (Edexcel).
- At KS4, classes have five hours of timetabled music lessons per fortnight, these are taught in music specialist rooms by a music specialist teacher.
- We meet the requirements in the National Plan for Music Education of at least one hour per week of timetabled music lessons for students in KS3.
- Cathedral Schools Trust has a deep commitment to music and supports us through specialist teachers and programmes such as trailblazers
- Link to [music curriculum guide](#)
- Link to [music curriculum intent statement](#)

## Part B: Co-curricular music

- Instrumental lessons are provided through WEMA on a range of instruments. These can be individual or small group lessons. Instruments currently offered are: piano, drums, voice, guitar. These lessons are charged at the WEMA rates and parents are billed directly. Subsidies are offered at the following rates: full subsidy for those in receipt of Free School Meals; half subsidy for those who are eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant.
- We run the popular trailblazers scheme which is unique to CST schools. This is a scheme which gives all Year 7 pupils the opportunity to learn a woodwind or brass instrument at a heavily subsidised rate. Instruments offered are: flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, trombone and French horn. Lessons are taught in small groups and pupils receive the free loan of an instrument throughout the duration of their trailblazers year.
- The instrumental lesson offer meets the requirement in the National Plan for Music Education of access to lessons on a range of instruments including voice.
- All trailblazers students are given the opportunity to continue learning their instrument beyond Year 7 by joining the trailblazers plus scheme. These lessons are still offered at a subsidised rate to support students to be able to enjoy music beyond the curriculum offer.
- We run a school choir which is open to all students from all year groups. This is well attended with around 60 regular attendees at no charge. This meets the requirement in the National Plan for Music Education for all schools to offer a choir or vocal ensemble.
- We run a trailblazers orchestra which all trailblazers students attend. This is a beginners' ensemble which allows students to gain early experience of playing as an ensemble.
- We run a school orchestra which is open to all students from all year groups who are around grade 1 standard or above. It is a progression from trailblazers orchestra and many students who attend this are on the trailblazers plus scheme. This is run at no charge to students. This is well attended with around 20 regular attendees.
- We run a brass group which is delivered by our trailblazers brass teacher at no charge to students.
- We also run a woodwind group which is delivered by our trailblazers woodwind teacher at no charge to students.
- The large number of ensembles we offer more than meets the requirement in the National Plan for Music Education for all schools to offer a range of ensembles.
- All trailblazers students are given a free loan instrument for the year. We also loan selected instruments to older pupils where we have availability.
- Pupils are also signposted to activities and events run by WEMA (and also by Bristol Beacon).

- We have music practice rooms which students can use to rehearse either individually or in small groups. This meets the requirement in the National Plan for Music Education for schools to offer space for rehearsals and individual practice.

## 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.

- We are involved in the LEAP concerts in conjunction with CST and Birmingham Conservatoire. We provide the choir for these concerts and our students perform a diverse range of repertoire (from opera to EDM!) alongside the Birmingham Conservatoire musicians. Audiences for these concerts are made up from primary school pupils within the trust. No charge. Include video?
- We offer performance opportunities within school such as school musicals (historically) and concerts such as the Christmas Cabaret. In the last 10 years we have put on Sister Act, The Addams Family, Miss Saigon and Grease. There is no charge.
- Performances are included as part of all our house celebration evenings, school open evenings and some assemblies.
- We also participate in trailblazers bandcamp day which enables our trailblazers students to participate in a range of masterclasses and workshops. They then perform some massed items with trailblazers students from the other Trust secondary schools and alongside musicians from The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. All trailblazers students then perform in an evening concert to families. Travel costs only. Students in receipt of PP/FSM are subsidised.
- We also fully participate in the Cathedral Schools Trust concert. We have students playing in orchestral items, in percussion ensembles and also in choirs. This takes place at the Bristol Beacon and is an amazing opportunity for our students to perform in a professional venue. There is no charge for any student.
- All GCSE music students attend live music events such as concerts by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (organised through WEMA) which include repertoire from the GCSE specification. Families are charged the ticket price and travel costs. Students in receipt of FSM/PP are subsidised where necessary. This meets the requirements in the National Plan for Music Education for students to watch a live performance at least once per year.

## In the future

- We intent to maintain our practice of aligning with the National Plan for Music Education and continuing to value and celebrate music education as a core part of our school and Trust

- We intend to further expand our instrument clubs with a priority of creating a guitar club.
- We would like to develop further opportunities for pupils to watch live performances, especially at KS3.
- We intend to increase the regularity of performance opportunities to include a school musical every 2 years with an alternative performance opportunity on the alternate year.