

Music development plan summary: St John the Baptist School, Woking

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Charlie Davies
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mike McKenna
Name of local music hub	Surrey Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Surrey Arts

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 Music department at St John the Baptist School comprises three passionate subject experts with a vast combined musical knowledge base and breadth of experience. We strive to use this passion, experience and expertise to create a curriculum that inspires and encourages excellence.

The recommendations of the OFSTED Music subject review outline our curriculum planning and development. From the beginning of the students' journeys at SJB in year 7, they develop their understanding of the three principle elements of musicianship: performance, composition and appraisal. These skills are developed through select, specific key concepts through practice and repetition of procedural and declarative knowledge through various independent and group tasks during each topic over a term. We aim for a curriculum that prioritises quality of learning over quantity, therefore taking more time to ensure that concepts and skills are more thoroughly embedded,

allowing the students to finish each topic by looking back on a performance or composition they can feel genuinely proud of.

KS3

During KS3, the students have 2 lessons per fortnight (3 in Year 7), and during these three years, they are given the opportunity to develop in the three key areas: performing, composing, and appraising. Throughout KS3, students develop their knowledge and understanding of reading treble and bass clef notation and rhythm, starting with the basics in Year 7 and performing from the notation in Year 9. Our curriculum allows students to develop composition techniques and abilities using Garageband on iPads.

Our student offer includes:

- Year 7 are allocated three 50-minute lessons per fortnight.
- Years 8 and 9 are allocated two 50-minute lessons per fortnight.
- Students are given opportunities to sing in lessons and explore a variety of music through half-termly topics.
- Annual Year 7 concert
- Students learn about world music, including playing the steel pans, a Gamelan, Samba, and djembe.
 - Whole class Gamelan (Year 8)
 - Whole class steel pans (Year 8)
 - Whole class Samba (Year 9)
- Composition to brief (Year 9 – linked to GCSE)

KS4

Through the KS4 curriculum, students study music over five periods per fortnight in preparation for the Eduqas Music GCSE. By the end of Year 11, the students will be confident performers on their chosen instrument and have performed in various settings. They will have composed stand-alone pieces in their preferred style and be able to appraise a variety of genres confidently.

All GCSE students will have numerous performance opportunities throughout the course.

KS5

The KS5 curriculum also prepares students to obtain an A Level in music through Eduqas. Throughout Years 12 and 13, students are encouraged to take more ownership of their learning and practice. They become role models for younger students and support co-curricular opportunities.

To see the KS3, 4 and 5 curriculum maps, follow this link: [Music – St John the Baptist School](#).

The music curriculum throughout the school at SJB is designed to be diverse and engaging while remaining accessible for all students. We strive to be inclusive, offering opportunities for every single student to feel valued and encouraged to become the best versions of themselves.

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.

Co-Curricular Clubs

Our music extra-curricular activities are open to all, regardless of musical background. We offer a diverse range of clubs, including two choirs (junior and senior), two bands (junior and senior), and an orchestra. These ensembles are a melting pot of students; some with instrumental lessons, some self-taught, and even those who have never played an instrument before. In these ensembles, students are exposed to a variety of musical styles in our weekly rehearsals, all leading up to our termly concerts. All our extra-curricular activities are led by our dedicated music staff.

We are hoping to run some trips this year and invite some music leaders into school to support whole-class learning. We intend to offer all students the opportunity to:

- See a West End Musical
- Participate in a Samba or Gamelan workshop for KS3 students

Peripatetic Lessons

At SJB, we offer a wide variety of instrumental lessons outside of the regular curriculum. Students can choose from piano, flute, clarinet, saxophone, violin, cello, trumpet, guitar, bass guitar, and drum kit. These 20 or 30-minute one-on-one lessons take place during the school day and are paid for by parents, with some subsidy for Pupil Premium students. Students in these lessons are supported in working towards graded exams. We are excited about the potential for growth in the number of students participating in peripatetic lessons.

The music department has four practice rooms for peripatetic lessons. When they are not in use, students can use these rooms to collaborate or practice individually to prepare for their instrumental lesson or music lesson.

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.

Our school hosts three concerts each academic year (one per term) to showcase the hard work of our students in extra-curricular activities and the talents of our soloists. These performances are a collaborative effort, with participation across the school from Year 7 to Year 13, including our dedicated staff who support ensembles.

Performance opportunities include:

- Performance evenings for all KS4 & KS5 students (multiple)
- The School Show (a musical) including students from across Year 7 to 13.
- An annual Carol Service at Christmas in the local church
- Winter concert
- An annual Year 7 performance of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' including the junior ensembles
- Spring concert involving all ensembles and some soloists
- Summer concert involving all ensembles
- House Music competition
- Remembrance Day Service

Many events, such as the Carol Service and performance evenings, are free of charge to parents/carers. However, our other performances are charged to parents/carers, and the money goes towards supporting the department.

In the future

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

Our aims to improve music at SJB include:

- Increasing participation numbers in KS4 and KS5 classes
- Reinstate singing in assemblies (starting with KS3)
- Trips to complement classroom work (a musical and live classical concert)
- Grow extra-curricular uptake across the school
- Revisit the curriculum to account for changes in timetable and to allow adequate stretch and challenge for talented musicians

Our goal is to increase the engagement in extra-curricular music for all our students, including those from who are disadvantaged and/or who have SEND, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to participate and benefit from our music program.