

Music development plan summary: St Benedict's Catholic High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	24-25
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	J Davies
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	S Bridgman
Name of local music hub	Cumbria Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Cumberland Music Service Royal Northern College of Music

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.

Key Stage 3 Provision:

All students in years 7, 8 & 9 receive one 55 minute lesson a week. These are delivered by specialist music teachers and cover a wide range of practical music making activities.

For more detail on the curriculum see: [St Benedict's Key Stage 3 Music](#)

Our curriculum has been informed by the Model Music Curriculum for Key Stage 3 and focuses on the following key areas:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Performing / instrumental performance.

Through these activities the curriculum aims to steadily increase the development of students' musicianship.

Through each topic, students have the opportunity to play a variety of instruments. They develop their skills on keyboards, ukuleles, drums & percussion. This is often through small group work as well as whole class ensemble performances.

Key Stage 4 Provision:

At Key Stage 4, students can opt to study for a BTEC in Music Practice. The course builds on the curriculum from Key Stage 3 and develops students' skills in the areas of performing, composing & producing.

More information on the BTEC music practice course can be found here:

[Key Stage 4 Curriculum](#)

Key Stage 5 Provision:

We do not currently offer a qualification at key stage 5. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the provision of BTEC's at key stage 5, the intention is to be able to explore suitable courses to offer in the next academic year.

Graded Music Exams:

A recent development has been the reintroduction of co-curricular instrumental lessons. We plan to continue this development by exploring the offer of graded music examinations through key stage 3 & 4.

Accommodation:

Music lessons are taught in two dedicated music classrooms. One room also has a suite of computers with MIDI keyboards.

There are two music practice rooms that are also used during lesson times as well as for instrumental lessons, student practice and rehearsals.

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.

Instrumental Lessons:

Instrumental lessons were reintroduced last year (23-24) and have been popular with students & parents. We offer lessons on the following instruments:

- Guitar
- Keyboard
- Violin
- Brass

In September '24, we hope to introduce woodwind.

The lessons are timetabled in 20 to 30 minute sessions. They take place during the school day on a rota system so that students do not miss the same lesson on consecutive weeks.

There is a small charge of £60 a term (approx. £5 per lesson). The rest of the cost is subsidised by school.

Pupil Premium students' lessons are fully funded, as are students who have opted to study the BTEC in Music Practice at key stage 4.

The lessons are provided by a mixture of freelance teachers (violin, keyboards, woodwind & guitar) and teachers provided by Cumberland Music Service (brass & keyboards).

Lunchtime Clubs & Activities:

During lunchtimes, the music staff offer guitar, keyboard and drum clubs.

After School Clubs:

The department runs a weekly music club where pupils can come along and play instruments in small groups.

Members of the Performing Arts & R.E. departments run a Musical Theatre club where Students can perform songs from the shows. The club perform at several events each year.

School bands / ensembles:

Students receiving instrumental lessons are encouraged to join the school band. The band rehearse once a week & perform at school events such as the Carol Concert & school masses.

The school rock band rehearse once a week & also contribute to performances throughout the year.

Practice & rehearsal rooms:

Students have access to two music classrooms and two music practice rooms during lunchtimes (when staff are available) to practice & rehearse.

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.

Throughout the school year there are opportunities to perform at school events.

There is an annual Carol Concert at the end of the autumn term where the school band perform, as well as singing group, solo singers, instrumentalist, small ensembles and the staff & 6th form choir.

The autumn term will also see a return of the school talent show. The department will encourage students who play an instrument or sing to take part.

A new initiative beginning in the autumn term is a collaboration with the Royal Northern College of Music as part of their 'RNCM engage' programme. This will involve visits from RNCM students to perform & run workshops. More details can be found here: [RNCM Engage - Royal Northern College of Music](#).

During the spring term the music department will collaborate with the performing arts department to present a showcase of work done during the previous two terms. Students learning instruments will be encouraged to perform as soloist or members of

small ensembles. The school band & school rock band will also perform as well as any exam performance work.

Singing for assemblies will be developed over the coming year, beginning with year 7 and then continuing each year.

The school band also perform at masses for certain events such as the year 11 & 13 leavers mass in the summer term.

In the future

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

RNCM Engage: This is a new partnership with the RNCM that will be developed over subsequent years with the aim to increase the numbers of students taking instrumental lessons.

Opportunities for trips / concerts

Developing the provision of instrumental lessons: Now in its second year, the provision of lessons is becoming established. As of September '24 woodwind will be added to the provision.

Singing in assemblies: A new initiative to begin in September '24 with year 7.

Further information (optional)

Links: [Cumbria Music Hub](#)

[Cumberland Music Service](#)

[Royal Northern College of Music](#)