Music development plan summary:
- *St John Fisher Catholic College*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	Sept 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs J Farrington-Golds
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr C Hawthorne
Name of local music hub	The Music Partnership – through Entrust Music Service Staffordshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Entrust Music Service Staffordshire

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.

Music (the subject) is within the Performance Faculty (with PE, Drama and Dance). Being a Catholic school, all of our learning is underpinned with the Faith and Spiritual development of the learner through "The Fisher Way".

Music is taught to all learners in KS3 Year 7-9 (the school runs a 2-week timetable) with them having 3 lessons over a fortnight in Year 7 and 2 lesson a fortnight in Year 8 and 9.

Music is a GCSE option and a BTEC option subject for KS4 – learners can choose to study GCSE Music (AQA) or BTEC Tech Award in Music in Yr10 and Yr11.

Music is also offered at KS5 with A-Level music (Eduqas) available via the Trinity Sixth Form/St John Fisher Catholic College Sixth Form (numbers permitting).

The full Learning Journey for Music, mapping a spiral curriculum, can be found on the school website here:
https://www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/Curriculum/LearningJourney/PER/MUSIC%20Learning%20Journey%20Y7-Y13.pdf

The curriculum is designed to be fully inclusive to all learners. It draws from the National Curriculum Programmes of Study, the Model Music Curriculum and taking into account the key features that are relevant within the National Plan for Music Education, as well as our own devised curriculum objectives that meet the needs of our learners. It is also selected to enhance the current teaching facilities of our school – for example increasing Music Technology use in KS3 with the PCs in the main music room. Detailed 'Curriculum Plans' for each year group can be found on the school website at the following links (All year groups curriculum is regularly reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose and best meets the needs of our learners, facilities and staff):

Year 7:
https://www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/Curriculum/Overview/Y7/The%20Fisher%20Way%20-%20Y7%20Music.pdf

Year 8:
https://www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/Curriculum/Overview/Y8/The%20Fisher%20Way%20-%20Y8%20Music.pdf

Year 9:
https://www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/Curriculum/Overview/Y9/The%20Fisher%20Way%20-%20Y9%20Music.pdf

Year 10:

GCSE
https://saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/Curriculum/Overview/Y10/The%20Fisher%20Way%20-%20Y10%20Music.pdf.pdf

BTEC
https://www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/Curriculum/Overview/Y10/The%20Fisher%20Way%20-%20Y10%20BTEC%20Music.pdf

Year 11:

GCSE
https://www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/Curriculum/Overview/Y11/The%20Fisher%20Way%20-%20Y11%20Music.pdf

BTEC
https://www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/Curriculum/Overview/Y11/The%20Fisher%20Way%20-%20Y11%20BTEC%20Music.pdf

All SEND learner have full access to the curriculum through the used of differentiated and reasonably adjust work where necessary and support from our LSAs (Learning Support Assistants) in class time. We are inclusive to learners who use a wheelchair/walking aids as Visually Impaired and Hearing Impaired learners – with the support from Local Authority VI and HI staff in school. PP learners are also supported within music lessons for equipment or resources they may require, and PP support is also given to those having peripatetic instrumental/vocal lessons to enable them to have lessons throughout the year.

Throughout KS3 learners have opportunities to:

- Perform (singing, keyboard/Piano based – main instrument used – African drumming and Samba drumming)

-Compose (instrumental and music technology based)

- Listen/Analyse music of different genres and cultures using Music Elements and appropriate musical vocabulary for discussion.

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.

MUSIC TUITION

SJF works with Entrust Music Service Staffordshire to offer instrumental lessons across the whole school. Parent can opt for either private 20mins, Private 30mins or 20mins shared with others – this can be dependant on numbers. Share lessons involve the cost of the lessons being split between the learners in the group. Instrumental hire is free.

GCSE and A-Level Music learners receive a 20mins private lesson paid for by the school to support their performance coursework. PP learners in receipt of PP who have been identified as possible musicians have support with lesson payment. Learners all have the chance to complete graded exams via these lessons if they wish.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR – ENSEMBLES/CHOIR

The school currently offers a Show Choir and School Instrumental Ensemble to which the whole school are able to join. The Show Choir focusses on music/song particularly from Musicals and movies but has also performed sacred/secular/choral music when desired by the members. The School ensemble is open to instrumentalists across the school and changes it's direction with the nature of it's currently members. We have also run ad hoc groups based on the cohorts – e.g. Guitar Group, BandLab Club (each are offered each term and runs based on numbers/take-up) and Rock Bands where viable If these continue to have good take up then they become permanent groups for the year. All groups take place in school in either the Music Department facilities or in the school hall.

The school has good links with Entrust Music Service Staffordshire which also means that all learners in the school can have access to the local Music Centre – Newcastle Music Centre – which runs on Saturday mornings and other events run by EMMS such as the County Wind Band, String Orchestra and Choir and concerts at the local concert hall (the Victoria Hall). Information can be found here: https://entrustmusic.co.uk/music-groups/

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.

SJF offers regular performance opportunities – notably at the end of the Autumn and Summer Terms. We aim to run multiple performances at Christmas. One being "Carols Against Cancer" in conjunction our partner primary schools (this has been running since 2011) .This is our Christmas Feeder primary concert. Other performances can include SJF specific concerts and this year have a Church-based Carol Service with SJF learners and feeder primary schools.

On occasions we have developed alternatives Carols Against Cancer cannot run (if we are unable to find mutual workable date with all schools involved at Christmas time) such as our "Spring Fling" concert with our multiple feeder primary schools.

In the Summer Term we plan to run a similar set up with a primary link concert and the SJF specific concert. Although we have run just one concert before as not all primary school were available or due to school show in which musicians were involved which meant a single date was more successful. It is anticipated that in 2026-27 will be working towards this similar set up of concerts throughout the year. Concerts are a

crucial way to also bring in revenue for the Music Department with funds going towards planned Tours and the purchase of music and instruments needed for the groups.

Due to expansion of Dance and Drama within the school over the last few years, there have been small productions run in the Summer Term and there are plans for more adventurous productions involving Music, Dance and Drama collaboratively using the neighbouring performing arts facilities.

In the future

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

Due to increased teaching time in back in 2025-26 we have devised and reviewed and extended our curriculum. This has been reviewed again for 2026-27 to ensure that our curriculum is fully developing musical skills. We will also be enhancing our current Careers offer based on a learner voice questionnaire completed in summer 2026.

After the success of the Music tour to Belgium in July 2026, we are looking to plan a Music Tour to Valkenberg July 2028 as it has been really positive to get this up and running again.

Reviews of KS4 curriculum will also take place after Year 9 options to ensure the offer for learners choosing options subjects in Year 9 is suitable for their needs (due to falling numbers in recent years). We are offering BTEC music this year and will continue to offer BTEC and GCSE for the next academic cohort.