

All Saints' Academy

School Music Development Plan for academic year 2026-27

Overview:

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	9th September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	31 st July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr C Carter
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss H Baynham-Williams
Name of local music hub	Gloucestershire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Works Ltd, Hannah Davey Vocal Coaching and Gloucestershire Music Services

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' music education.

Musical education plays a central role in shaping our sense of personal, social, and cultural identity and, as such, enables students to learn to express themselves and gain the confidence needed to succeed in their education. In addition, learning music develops a wide variety of transferable skills and attributes including independence, confidence, perseverance, and creativity.

Alongside our classroom teaching, Music forms an important part of Academy life. Students have an enriched curriculum through a vibrant collection of musical ensembles, in conjunction with our Performing Arts Faculty, which we believe offer opportunities to a wide range of students, allowing them to collaborate with other musicians and thus develop their performance skills, understanding and love of the subject.

We endeavour to expose our students to live music, including visits to the theatre and to concerts. All students involved in music are given regular opportunities to

perform in front of others, both as individuals and with the various groups both inside the academy and in the community.

The Academy's Vision has helped shape the Music curriculum choices. In topics such as Folk Music and Blues at Key Stage 3, we explore the Moral, Social and Ethical aspects of different cultures and the historical context of Music; whilst at Key Stage 4 and 5, students are encouraged to achieve their God-given potential through specialising in Performance and Composition.

Part A: Music – Curriculum:

The music curriculum is designed to be captivating and inclusive for all. It helps pupils build confidence and resilience through performance, composition, and active listening. As both musicians and teachers, we will encourage pupils to value and develop their own creative identities through expressing themselves and communicating with others. Our aim is that pupils will leave school having built an inherent appreciation, understanding and lifelong love of music.

At Key Stage 3, Music is taught in mixed ability groupings as part of a blended Performing Arts curriculum. We lay down the core skills and knowledge which underpin all music-making through performance, composition and listening. Each Cycle requires new skills, such as greater instrumental dexterity, expression or new knowledge, such as further theoretical understanding of varying musical styles, giving students the time and space to explore their creativity, independence, and self-awareness.

In accordance with the National Curriculum for Music, students refine their skills through composing, performing, and appraising with a focus on strengthening their keyboard technical skills. Within the curriculum, there are spaces for students to develop their vocal skills (singing both as part of an ensemble and as a soloist (where students want to)), alongside learning basic treble and bass clef notation. There are opportunities within the curriculum for students to play guitar, bass guitar, drums, and learn relevant notation, including guitar chords and tab and a wide range of instruments, alongside extra-curricular groups such as the Rock Band offerings for years 7 through to 10, After-Academy Rock Band, and our whole academy choir. Disadvantaged students are supported through a bursary system and are actively encouraged to engage with individual Peripatetic instrument lessons.

Each piece of music chosen to study through performance or listening adds to the student's cultural capital. We carefully choose a wide range of music from a range of cultures, traditions and countries, ranging from the Baroque period to the present day. We are aware of the historical importance of the local area and highlight local

great composers such as Gustav Holst, musical composer and performer Richard O'Brien and pop artists such as Brian Jones, founder of the Rolling Stones.

Key Stage 3 forms the foundation of knowledge and skills which are required for the step up to GCSE standard whilst complementing their drama learning at the same time. By the end of Year 9, students have experience with all the fundamental building blocks of music, and so in GCSE they can use these blocks to build better compositions, more intricate performances and listening analysis with greater use of specific musical language. Each cycle is frequently reviewed to ensure that our teaching is relevant to pupils' interests whilst still being up to date with industry standards.

Our curriculum aims to focus on a diverse range of musicians across a variety of musical genres from different social, cultural and historical contexts and the wider world, providing opportunity for pupils of all backgrounds and musical tastes to engage, be part of and be inspired by whilst progressing musically. Through our adaptive teaching, we ensure that all students can access the curriculum and achieve their own potential.

In Key Stage 4, students learn four key areas of study and build their knowledge of these, whilst reinforcing their listening and evaluating skills. They start to work on their first composition in Year 10 and regularly perform in class to develop their performance skills, ready to record their final performances in Year 11. In Year 11, students complete their two compositions whilst deepening their knowledge of each of the areas of study, focussing on wider listening to the great composers and other pieces within the areas of study. During Year 10, students are encouraged to begin taking instrumental lessons, if they have not previously had lessons, and choose an instrument or voice to specialise in for their performance element.

At Key Stage 5, we offer the BTEC Music Performance course, which builds on the performance skills developed throughout both Key Stage 3 and 4. Students are expected to complete two compositions and perform a recital in front of a visiting examiner. Students are provided with key work-related learning opportunities through visits to Royal Symphony Halls and Studios.

Literacy and numeracy play an important part at all Key Stages. From Year 7, students are expected to describe music using the Elements of Music in full sentences and using a range of musical vocabulary. As their learning develops, students must consider composers' intentions and describe how the music portrays a scene, emotion, character, or atmosphere. For GCSE and A Level, students are guided on how to write about music in an academic style of writing in preparation for their final listening and appraising exams. In all Key Stages, students are expected

to reflect on class performances and compositions using full sentences as they assess their successes and how to improve.

Music is intrinsically linked to numeracy, and students need to be able to understand note values, simple ratios and sequences when performing and composing music. As students progress, they need to understand more complex musical patterns and phrases and understand how tempo is used in relation to beats per minute.

In all areas of teaching, we apply the Academy Principles of Teaching to strengthen students' ability to retain and recall subject knowledge and important information. We encourage deeper learning through recall quizzes and retrieval listening tests. This is heavily supported in our curriculum with the use of our Curriculum Organisers to further develop their recalling and recapping of their learning. Our Music curriculum interlinks prior learning at every opportunity to consistently develop their learning and encourage deeper questioning in the subject.

Our cycle assessments are based upon the Academy assessment model. At Key Stage 3, all Performance and Composition tasks are linked to the Academy assessment levels of developing, achieving, and exceeding. Each cycle of learning has a clear set of measurable learning outcomes that assess the application of their technical skills. In Key Stage 4, students are provided with a copy of the criteria for both Performance and Composition at the start of the course so they can become familiar with the terminology and assessment criteria. Listening tests are completed as part of each cycle to ensure students are familiar with this aspect of the course.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Music tuition is growing at All Saints' Academy with students across all ages and abilities. Lessons are timetabled throughout the day in partnership with Gloucester Music Service. Lessons are taught either individually on a one-to-one basis or in a group setting for either a 20- or 30-minute slot. Students who opt for Music at either Key Stage 4 or 5 have instrumental lessons funded on behalf of the Academy. Additionally, pupil premium funding is available for those who qualify for these payments. Currently, we offer tuition for the following instruments in music studio/practice rooms for the following instruments:

Piano

Voice

Guitar

Drums

Violin

Other instrument tuition is available on request.

Instrument hire can be arranged via Gloucester Music Service but at a small cost. More information can be obtained through the Music Service.

The Music department staff run a varied programme of co-curricular activities throughout the academic calendar. This is currently under development and review.

The current timetable is as follows:

- **Monday** – ASA Choir
- **Tuesday** – Year 7 and 9 Rock Band
- **Wednesday** – Year 10 and 11 GCSE Composition
- **Thursday** – Year 8 and 10 Rock Band

Part C – Musical Experiences:

Each year, the academy holds a Remembrance Day service, a Christmas Service, and an Easter Service, where members of the whole-academy choir and student instrumentalists act as ambassadors and perform.

There is an annual Christmas Concert held at the Minster, student performances at the Bishop's Award Celebration Ceremony, which takes place at Tewkesbury Minster, and an annual whole-academy musical production. Students also host a community performance for our local care homes as part of our community stewardship programme. At Christmas, the school holds a 'Carols on the Courtyard' event which is attended by members of the school community along with members of the local public community.

Alongside these events, students from throughout the academy can perform in our talent shows, either as soloists or as part of an ensemble. Students do not need to be studying Music at KS4/5, have instrumental Peripatetic lessons, or be part of an organised extra-curricular activity; we have a welcoming, inclusive music policy that encourages all to perform.

Our performance audiences consist of students, families and friends of performers, local Primary School students, local school staff, local church groups, local care home residents and local members of our extended community. Our Lord Mayor and his team are often also in attendance too! All performances are free to attend to involve as many members of our community as possible. The annual school musical is a ticketed event based on the external costs, such as the national licensing fees that must be paid. The musical is ticketed based on the cost of national licensing fees. Free or subsidised tickets for parents and carers in challenging circumstances are available on an individual support basis.

Each year, students from our internal alternative provision work with The Music Works and 60 KS3 students spend the year having Whole Class Ensemble

Teaching. Students also have opportunities to go on educational trips to concerts and many theatre productions.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for the subsequent year:

- During the 2026/2027 academic year, we will be reviewing the music curriculum, including what is on offer throughout Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, ensuring that we offer the highest-quality musical education that is relevant.
- We will also be reviewing our Extra-Curricular offerings and how this can be tailored to the needs of the students within the academy and their interests. Through this development, we will also be looking to increase our school performance opportunities, whether this is within the Academy community or in the wider community, in addition to what we already offer. This will include trips to visit shows and performances by both amateur and professional musicians in the local area and further afield.
- We will be seeking new opportunities to further enhance our musical offering within the academy, both as a stand-alone department and in partnership with other subjects.
- Continue the department's close work with the Performing Arts faculty to develop the Whole School Production.

Further information

The department is currently working with Gloucester Music Service, and this is something that we are going to be continuing; however, we are going to also explore opportunities to develop these links to strengthen the offering for the students both inside and outside the classroom.

As a department, we are going to be looking at enhancing our Music Technology offering to become more 'up to date' with students' interests and to keep up with industry standards.

We are developing links with Cheltenham College and exploring opportunities for curriculum enrichment. The department is also enhancing links with other schools in the local area and further afield to moderate coursework at both GCSE and BTEC Level 3.

