

Music development plan summary: St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	Oct 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Jul 2026
Name of the school music lead	Lee Cogger
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dynamics (Medway Music Association)

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.

Music is a growing subject at St. John Fisher; after being reintroduced to the school curriculum in September 2024, music is taught to every student in KS3. Students in KS4 also have the opportunity to study the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice (Level 1/2) . The co-curricular provision of the school now includes a staff and student choir, various vocal groups and several smaller student-led ensembles. We are also proud to offer instrument lessons in partnership with Kent Music, our local hub organisation.

As the subject continues to flourish, we look forward to offering music in Key Stage 5 and expanding our co-curricular groups.

Part A: Curriculum music

In Key Stage 3, music is taught as part of a carousel alongside Drama.

Students study each subject for 1 hour a week for a block of 9 weeks before changing to the other subject.

Key Stage 3 music is a wholly practical subject, focusing on learning instrumental and vocal skills.

Students learn:

- Vocals – students build on prior knowledge and skills from KS2 - beginning with warming up effectively, learning to use the voice comfortably and moving on to part and solo singing where appropriate for individual students.
- Keyboards – with an initial focus on chords using the *modern band* method, students progress to reading early staff notation, eventually working towards playing simple melodies with left hand accompaniments.
- Ukuleles – with an early emphasis on chord shapes, strumming patterns and accompaniment skills. Students are taught to play songs that use repetitive chord patterns, eventually progressing towards more complicated chord structures.
- Djembe drums – students learn to play and compose rhythmic ideas using hand drums. They also learn to perform traditional djembe rhythms in groups, layering parts and taking turns to lead their classmates.

The practical nature of the subject at Key Stage 3 is particularly beneficial to students with SEND.

In Key Stage 4, students can study music as a BTEC option. The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice helps students develop practical skills in creating, performing, and producing music while exploring different musical styles and techniques. It provides hands-on experience and industry-relevant knowledge to prepare learners for further study or careers in the music industry. Students are assessed through coursework and practical assignments that showcase their creativity, technical ability, and understanding of the music-making process.

At Key Stage 4, students receive 3 hours of music lessons every week.

Part B: Co-curricular music

We offer a variety of instrumental lessons to students across the school. A growing number of students take part in small-group keyboard, piano, singing and drum-kit lessons. Key Stage 4 music students receive instrument lessons as part of their studies. These are provided by licensed music teachers in association with Kent Music.

Instrument lessons are paid for by the school with a part-funding agreement with Kent Music.

Students are encouraged to make use of our facilities outside of lesson times, including before and after school and at lunchtimes. We also have a small stock of instruments we lend to students who do not have resources to practice at home.

Currently, our co-curricular music offer consists of a growing whole-school staff and student choir and several smaller student-led vocal and instrumental ensembles.

Key Stage 4 students are strongly encouraged to get involved with extra-curricular activities.

Part C: Musical experiences

There are a number of musical performances planned for this academic year, including:

- Christmas Carol Service – *involving the choir, student-led vocal groups, KS4 musicians.*
- CAPA (Creative And Performing Arts) Showcase - *involving the choir, student-led vocal groups, KS4 musicians.*
- St. John Fisher Day – *a less-formal occasion where students are invited to share, among other things, their musical talents.*

We have taken part in musical activities with other schools; recently taking our KS4 cohorts to Fort Pitt Grammar School for a workshop with world-renowned vocal group, *The Sixteen.*

In the future

Now that music is embedded as part of the St. John Fisher curriculum, we are looking to raise the profile of music across the school by including:

- Performances in assemblies.
- Trips to concerts.
- Visiting musicians and groups.

As music students progress through the school, we envision offering the subject at Key Stage 5.

We also aim to increase whole-school engagement with music, including students and staff outside of the music department.