



St Bede's

Catholic School
& Sixth Form College

Music Development Plan Summary 2024-2025

St. Bede's Catholic School & Sixth Form

"The Music Department is an alternate universe where pupils are often unrecognisable from who they are outside of it. The shy become confident. The agitated become calm. The lonely become included. The quiet become heard. And the lost become found. Music reveals the real child."

Vaughan Fleischfresser

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Written by:	Mr B. Shaller

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Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	November 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr B. Shaller
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mrs C. Hammill
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service

Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25 (*DfE 15th May 2024*).

This document sets out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music, and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the national plan for music education:

- A timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3.
- Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice.
- A school choir or vocal ensemble
- A school ensemble, band or group
- Space for rehearsals and individual practice
- A termly school performance
- Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

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.

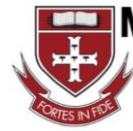
Part A: Curriculum Music

This section outlines what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve. The overview of the music curriculum for each year group can be found in the curriculum page of the 'our school' section of the St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College website.

Key Stage 3 Overview

At St. Bede's Catholic School and 6th Form Students in Key Stage 3 receive an hour music lesson per week. We aim to structure our curriculum to meet the aims outlined in the model music curriculum, (*DfE, 2021*) which suggests that students should have been taught and built an understanding of how to perform using the elements listed below by the end of KS3. We sequence our lessons across years 7 – 9 to introduce these elemental concepts in a cohesive sequence and build on prior learning, making adaptations for individual learners based on their individual starting points and specific learning needs. In the table below you can see how these concepts are introduced and developed across Key Stage 3.

Performing and Composing – End Points		Y7	Y8	Y9
Rhythm	Semibreves			
	Minims			
	Crotchets			
	Quavers			
	Semiquavers			
	Dotted crotchets/ quavers			
	Dotted quavers/ semiquavers/ triplets			
Pitch	Treble Clef Middle C to top-line F			
	Bass Clef bottom-line G to Middle C			
	One Ledger Line			
	Two Ledger Lines			
Metre	4/4			
	3/4			
	6/8			
Tonality	C Major and A Minor			
	G Major, F Major, E Minor, and D Minor			
	D Major, Bb Major, B Minor, and G Minor			
Dynamics	Terraced dynamics: <i>ff, f, mf, p, pp</i>			
	Gradual changes: Crescendo and Diminuendo			
	Sudden changes: Sforzando and Fortepiano			
Expression	Legato			
	Staccato			
	Slurs			



Please note that while it may look as though some concepts are taught across each year group, this is because they may occur in music of all levels of difficulty and will need to be acknowledged, or perhaps revisit for their successful application in a performance context. Please see the musical examples below on how this may present itself, e.g. both pieces feature crotchets and quavers.



And one of these days these boots are go-nna walk all o-ver you.

Nancy Sinatra, *These Boots are made for Walkin'* - Trinity Rock and Pop, Grade 1 Vocals



Some - day I'll wish u-pon a star and wake up where the clouds are far be - hind me.

Eva Cassidy, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* - Trinity Rock and Pop, Grade 8 Vocals

The Model Music Curriculum considers listening as both a technical exercise (e.g. knowing that there are three beats in a bar) and an opportunity to explore musical meaning and purpose. The MMC suggests some repertoire and approaches that build on the listening skills developed in Key Stages 1 and 2. As with the introduction of performance concepts we will phase the teaching of elemental concepts across KS3 but in order to effectively listen to and appraise music we return to them as part of our retrieval process.

Listening and Appraising		Y7	Y8	Y9
Tempo	Andante/ Allegro/ Adagio			
	Presto/ Largo			
	Accelerando/ Rallentando			
	Rubato/ Fermata			
	Free Tempo/ Colla Voce			
Dynamics	Forte/ Mezzoforte/ Mezzopiano/ Piano			
	Fortissimo/ Pianissimo			
	Crescendo/ Diminuendo/ Terraced			
	Sforzando/ Fortepiano			
Texture	Monophonic/ Melody and Accompaniment			
	Homophonic/ Polyphonic			
	Heterophonic			
Tonality	Major/ Minor			
	Modal			
	Atonal			



Listening and Appraising (continued)		Y7	Y8	Y9
Pitch/ Melody	High/ Mid/ Low			
	Theme			
	Syllabic/ Melisma			
	Conjunct/ Stepwise/ Scalic			
	Disjunct/ Leaps			
	Riff			
	Arpeggio/ Broken Chords			
	Improvisation			
Harmony	Consonant/ Diatonic			
	Dissonant			
	Ground Bass			
	Pedal Note			
	Extended harmony			
	Modulation			
	Static Harmony			
Rhythm	Note values (in line with performance)			
	On the beat			
	Syncopation			
	Triplets			
	Mono/ Polyrhythm			
	Cross-rhythms			
Metre	4/4, 3/4, 2/4			
	6/8			
	Irregular time signatures			
Instruments	Instrumental families			
	Classical orchestral instruments			
	Common Pop/ Jazz band instruments			
	Traditional folk instruments			
	Romantic/ 20 th Century orchestral instruments			
	Latin music instruments			
	Contemporary technology and instruments			
	Extended instrumental and vocal technique			

Key Stage 3 Singing Strategy

As part of KS3 lessons we use singing to support our keyboard disciplinary technique. Students undertake vocal warm-ups and then are often asked to learn melodies by singing the pieces and playing the numbered fingering in the air simultaneously. This process helps us develop several key areas of musicianship:

- Development of singing technique
- Development of understanding of rhythm and melody
- Ability to remember and internalise melody
- Development of keyboard technique

In addition to singing as part of our disciplinary technique we also learn to sing as a class with specific focus on learning specific songs. Some of these pieces are linked to schemes of learning and some of them are linked to our provision for whole school worship.

Instrumental music

In KS3 we aim to develop students' practical musicianship through access to a range of instruments including keyboard, ukuleles, and mixed pitched and unpitched percussion where we have enough instruments for all students to be able to access full class-sets of instruments. While students will access numerous instruments across years 7-9, the keyboard is the instrument where we aim to specialise in order to develop students' disciplinary technique, giving them the skills required to explore performing on a keyboard-based instrument beyond the classroom. Students who have instrumental lessons outside of the classroom are encouraged to work on developing their specialist instrumental area in class lessons.

Key Stage 4 Overview

Key Stage 4 students at St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College follow the [Edexcel GCSE Music specification](#) and receive four 1-hour lessons every fortnight in year 11 and five 1-hour lessons in year 10.

This qualification has been designed to give all students the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills of music with a focus on developing and assessing students' ability to perform, compose, and listen and appraise music. Students sit a performance exam as non-examined assessments on an instrument of their choice where they perform one solo and one ensemble piece of music. They submit two compositions as non-examined assessments, one of which is to a brief set by the exam board. Students also sit a listening and appraising examination which focuses on four areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700-1820, Vocal Music, and Music for Stage and Screen.

Our ambition is to support and encourage students coming from KS3 to want to progress from GCSE onto AS and A level Music and beyond.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

At St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College, we are committed to ensuring that every child can achieve their full potential in music. Where students require additional support, we plan accordingly, building scaffolded resources into their lessons. Some students may only need regular in-lesson check-ins to ensure they have the support needed to succeed in lesson, where others may require continuous help provided by our teaching and learning assistants. We aim to provide all students with strategies for dealing with their needs in a supportive musical environment.

Music Technology

In Key Stage 3 we have created an online course using Teams and Class Notebooks replacing the need for folders and books. This way of working allows us to attach audio and video clips to SoL and student work. We are able to attach video tutorials of how to play keyboard pieces to be used to help students to continue to work on instrumental technique outside the class as part of their home learning. Students who don't have access to a musical keyboard at home have been directed to apps to use on phones or tablets, and in addition we have added a link to an [online QWERTY piano](#).

We have a computer suite in T16 which allows all students access to online tools, but in T17 students are still working from class-sets of worksheets before progress is recorded on Class Notebooks.

In T16 Our DAW, Cubase 10, is used to create backing tracks and record exemplar material for KS3. In KS4 and 5 we use Cubase (DAW) and Sibelius (notation software) as tools to aid composition coursework. The decision of which software to use is made by the students based on their specific needs and preference of approach.

We have purchased a licence for an online learning platform, Focus on Sound. We currently use this platform to support learning in KS4 and 5 and are working to introduce elements of the platform to year 8-9 in the summer term. The website has access to online lessons, tests, and a full glossary of GCSE/ A Level terms with audio examples.

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

This section highlights opportunities for pupils at St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College to sing and play music, outside of lesson time.

Instrumental and Vocal Ensembles

St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College offer a wide range of ensemble opportunities catering to students of all instrumental and vocal disciplines taught at the school. The music department consists of two classrooms, one of which is often used as a rehearsal room. There are three in situ practice rooms where instrumental lessons are conducted and students are encouraged to use these spaces to practise their instruments during break and lunch times. There is further access to a demountable classroom which is used for larger group instrumental teaching, drum lessons, and orchestra rehearsals. The school has a sizable main hall with capacity for an audience of 288 people and features a proscenium arch stage and a grand piano. Additional spaces where music may be utilised include the lecture theatre and a chapel, both of which has a piano.

Choir – The school choir meet weekly throughout the year and is open to all students from year 7 -13. We perform a wide range of music including pop, film, musical theatre, and classical. The choir perform at school concerts, school parents' events, and supporting the liturgical life of the school and in the wider community.

Orchestra – Member of the orchestra is by invitation and requires students to play an orchestral or wind band instrument. We try to cater for all levels of ability, adapting parts so that all members are able to perform at their relative levels of study. The orchestra play a key role in our concert programmes.

Chamber Choir – This group is lead by our singing teacher from Durham Music Service and is an opportunity to showcase some of our most able and advanced singers. The group meet weekly and focus on four-part arrangements and compositions for advanced choirs.

Brass Group – The brass group is lead by our Durham Music Service brass teacher and gives all students who study a brass instrument an opportunity to participate in a small brass ensemble with parts adapted to suit the individual level of demand for each student. They play a key role in concerts, and it has become a tradition for them to visit classes around the school playing Christmas Carols in the last week of the winter term.

Guitar Group – The guitar group is led by St. Bede's School and Sixth Form College teachers and cater for any student who has a minimum level of being able to play basic chord shapes, though there are many advanced guitarists who participate as well. Much of what this group

play is student led and staff from outside the department who are competent guitar and bass players support the sessions.

Small ensembles and soloists – We pride ourselves on showcasing talent and offer many ad hoc small ensembles such as string groups, woodwind groups, rock bands, soloists and vocalists backed by small ensembles. These groups are usually put together for a specific event such as a liturgy or concert, and across the year offer opportunities for students in all year groups across a wide range of styles, instrumental disciplines, and type of occasion.

Durham Music Service Groups – Our students have access to a wide range of music groups provided through our partnership with Durham Music Service with regular performances at venues such as the Gala Theatre, Beamish Museum, Ushaw House and Durham Cathedral in Durham, and The Glasshouse (previously known as The Sage) in Gateshead. Current Durham Music Service and pupils who receive lessons elsewhere are welcome to join.

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

St. Bede's Music Department works in partnership with Durham Music Service in their role as the area hub for Durham County. The school currently pays to subsidise the overall cost of lessons for pupils receiving tuition at St. Bede's.

DMS guarantee that pupils will be offered at least 24 lessons in a full school year (September to July) and aim to provide 30 lessons. Individual lessons are 20 minutes long and group lessons last for 25 minutes. If a pupil is unable to attend a lesson for a reason outside the control of Durham Music Service (e.g., illness, exams, forgotten instrument) this will count towards the 24 lessons.

Instrument and vocal tuition disciplines include:

- Vocal
- Violin
- Woodwind (including flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone)
- Brass (including cornet, trumpet, tenor horn, euphonium, trombone)
- Piano/ Keyboard
- Guitar/ Bass Guitar
- Drum Kit

There are charges for lessons and for the hire of an instrument. Lessons are charged at £76.65 per term (estimated at £8.90 per lesson but could rise to a maximum of £11.13 per lesson if only 8 lessons are attended in a term). Hire of Instrument is £42.00 per term.

If a child is designated as pupil premium the school pays for the cost of the child.

Primary students who received instrumental lessons before arriving at St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth form College will be able to continue their studies. This will be automatically migrated to the Durham Music Service teachers without any need for action from either the student or the child's parents/ carers.

Each year we survey our students to find those that are interested in learning an instrument or receiving vocal tuition from Durham Music Service in school. These students are put on a waiting list and as space becomes available are given the opportunity to start tuition. New starters will only be added to a Durham Music Service teacher's timetable once it has been agreed and signed off by the music department team. For further enquiries parents can use the [contact us](#) page on the school website.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as concerts and shows, singing in worship and trips to professional concerts.

There is a wide range of musical opportunities for students to experience music making at St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College.

Concerts and Shows

Every year we put on a large-scale Christmas concert featuring performances from all of our ensembles and a number of smaller scale performances from our more advanced performers in key stage 4 and 5. The event is a time for us to come together as a community and is well attended by both performers (with over 110 performers involved in 2023) and the audience. The event often features returning alumni, parents who are proficient musicians, and audience participation in carols.

In the Spring Term we hold a 'St. Bede's Live' event where students with more pop-based instruments and vocals have an opportunity to showcase their talents. Last year we featured choir with more than 70 students helping to provide backing vocals for a performance of 'Gangsta's Paradise' by Coolio. A large number of student-led bands performed, and soloists were accompanied by a staff band which features the talents of staff from outside the music department who kindly involve themselves in whole-school musical events such as this. This event is also an opportunity to invite back St. Bede's School and Sixth Form College alumni to show how they have developed as performers since leaving our school.

At the end of the Summer Term produce either a large-scale concert or a musical production. These have taken various forms from traditional concerts to themed evenings such as A Night at the Musicals. This year we produced a murder mystery performance of Murdering Macbeth, set in the murky world of amateur dramatics societies.

Liturgy Music

Members of the choir are used to support worship at St. Bede's School and Sixth Form College. This may be in its capacity as a full ensemble or is sometimes a condensed version of the group to facilitate smaller venues. In the last academic year, the choir has supported year group mass, Christmas and Easter liturgies, Sunday Mass at All Saints Church in Lanchester, Staff Catholic Inset with the Youth Ministry Team, and Pope John Paul II Awards for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. All students have the opportunity to experience

music as part of shared worship at the school and are encouraged to play an active role in its performance.

Trips to Musicals and Performances

St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College offers students involved in extra-curricular musical activities and key stage 4-5 students sitting music qualifications the opportunity to participate in trips to watch professional performances. In September we took 50 students to watch a performance of *Wicked* at the Sunderland Empire Theatre which features one of the GCSE Music set works, *Defying Gravity*. Musical trips are an opportunity for students to experience live, musical genres and pieces studied in class withing a professional context. It is an important part of building cultural capital and enrichment, inspiring them and driving engagement in the creative arts opportunities inside and out of the classroom.

Workshops

Through our partnership with Durham Music Service, our students have had numerous opportunities to work with other Durham school pupils to access workshops led by leading musical professionals. Artists that groups of our students have had the pleasure of working with include:

- Voces8 - Grammy-nominated British vocal ensemble
- Gabrieli ROAR – a choir and period instrument orchestra
- Donald Grant – a Scottish folk musician working with Manchester Camerata
- Benedetti Foundation – a charitable organisation supporting music education, set up by the world-famous violinist and former winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year, Nicola Benedetti (MBE).

Part D: Music Development

This section is about how the school is planning to develop music in the coming years.

1. Curriculum

Although we regularly assess pupil performance and challenge underachievement, we would like to develop a wider range of assessment methods to incorporate greater use of video and audio recordings. This will give us the opportunity to use these recordings as reference points to develop self, peer and teacher-led evaluation and map the progress made by pupils over time.

We have a good history of providing good outcomes for students taking A Level Music at St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College. However, we would like to work to improve the uptake of A Level Music with a view to running a cohort in year 12 for the 2025-2026 academic year, receiving five hours per week.

In order to ensure that we are able to offer the required learning hours for all students in music at key stages 3-5 we currently employ two music specialists and a non-specialist teacher who has experience of music performance. We are committed to supporting all members of the music team with regard to continuing professional development and ensuring the integrity of the teaching of the music curriculum. As we move forward it is our ambition to only have music specialists teaching in the department.

2. Leadership and Management

In order to raise the profile of music in the school, we are working with the governing body regarding music development.

3. School Life and Opportunities

As we develop our curriculum and external events provision, we would like to work closer with our stakeholders when planning concerts, and in particular will look to take student voice into consideration with regard to repertoire selection and instruments/ensembles of interest. It is our ambition to look for greater opportunities for informal performances across the two week timetable to enable all students to have an opportunity to perform.

We have an IT suite in the music department, which allows all key stage 4 and 5 music students access as part of their studies. However, the increasing importance of music technology within the music industry means that we would like to find an IT solution for classes timetabled in the other music room.

While we have an excellent working relationship with our local music hub, Durham Music Service, we would like to develop further links to other organisations with the view to increase provision for concerts and workshops in music, as well as look for opportunities to improve outcomes for a wider group of students.

Part E: Further Information

Department Staff & Wider Supporting Team

Mr B. Shaller – Subject Leader for Music

Mrs A. Whitaker – Teacher of Music and Head of Year 9

Mr M. Davis – Teacher of Music, History, and RE

Durham Music Service

Mr M. Summers – Manager of Music Education

Mrs H. Milne – North Team Area Co-ordinator

Mr R. Crinson – Vocal Teacher

Mr C. Hartley – Violin Teacher

Mrs A. Wade – Woodwind Teacher

Mrs J. Weaver – Brass Teacher

Mr S. Lee – Piano/ Keyboard Teacher

Mr N. Taylor – Guitar Teacher

Mr S. Abbot – Drum Teacher

Durham Music Service

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