

Music development plan summary: St John Bosco Arts College

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	C. Finnegan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	M. Johnson
Name of local music hub	Resonate Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

The music curriculum is designed for all year groups, with progressively mapped skills across Key Stages according to National Curriculum guidelines ([link to curriculum plan](#)).

- KS3: Students study music for 1 hour every fortnight.
- KS4: Students study music for 5 hours every fortnight.

All curriculum music lessons take place in a specialised music environment. Our facilities and resources provide a comprehensive curriculum for all students, including music technology.

Throughout the KS3 curriculum, students have opportunities to develop skills through class teaching of singing, drumming, ukulele, and keyboard. At KS3, listening is integrated into all schemes of work covering a breadth of cultures and traditions. Students enhance their technical skills to identify the use of musical elements, with the

repertoire including examples in the Model Music Curriculum. By learning to listen critically, students not only broaden their musical horizons but also gain a deeper insight into the construction of music and its impact on the listener. Pupils with additional needs are able to participate and make progress in music lessons. We have strong partnerships with our local music education hub, Resonate, attending network meetings throughout the year.

Assessment and Qualifications

- The department's assessments align with the school's overall assessment strategy.
- Eduqas GCSE Music
- Graded music exams

Areas for Development

Curriculum Enhancement: Implement the DfE recommendations from the National Plan for Music with Key Stage 3 students having at least one hour of music each week throughout the school year.

Assessment and Feedback: Develop students' understanding of music assessment. Develop regular opportunities to return to and consolidate their short-term learning, while gradually introducing new ideas, methods and concepts

Inclusion and Accessibility: Meet with the SENDCO to discuss children's access to music education, considering all SEND needs, sound sensitivity, fine motor control, hearing issues, and previous musical experience.

Resource Development: Create playlists for KS3 and KS4 students to access at home, supporting broader listening across a wide range of musical genres. To further embed use of ICT in schemes of work to develop composition skills.

Scheme of Work Updates: Update KS4 schemes of work to provide students with more opportunities to complete practice listening questions.

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.

Our school collaborates with the Resonate Music Hub to offer instrumental lessons to students. These lessons are fully funded by the school and include both one-to-one and small-group tuition. Currently, we have 59 students learning instruments, including 22 who are pupil premium and 6 with SEN. Each student is loaned an instrument and

provided access to practice rooms for rehearsal. Students also have the opportunity to complete graded music exams. To support pupil premium students, we provide necessary music materials and cover exam fees.

Instrumental Tuition Breakdown

- Brass Tuition: 3 hours per week
- Woodwind Tuition: 4 hours per week
- Piano Tuition: 2 hours per week
- Percussion Tuition: 1 hours per week
- Vocal Tuition: 4 1/2 hours per week

Brass students also have the opportunity to attend Resonate Brass, with transport provided for pupil premium students.

Extra-Curricular Ensembles

All students are invited to join our choir and band without the need for auditions.

- Monday Lunchtime: Year 7 Choir (20 students, including 8 pupil premium and 6 SEN).
- Wednesday Lunchtime: SJB Choir (57 students, including 29 pupil premium and 10 SEN).
- Thursday Lunchtime: SJB Choir (57 students, including 29 pupil premium and 10 SEN).
- Thursday After School: SJB Band (20 students, including 9 pupil premium and 3 SEN).

Additionally, students can access equipment and practice rooms to rehearse in bands after school.

Areas for Development

Incorporating Music Technology: Expand activities to include the use of music technology.

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.

Music performance is a prominent component of school life, with students regularly given opportunities to perform and experience live music. All students are invited to participate or be a member of the audience.

Additional School Music Events

- Year 7 Welcome Mass
- 6th Form Welcome Mass
- Year 7 Choir of the Year Competition.
- Performances at Primary Choir and Dance Festivals.
- Whole School Production
- Christmas Showcase
- The Passion
- Spring Sing
- Feast Day Mass
- Leavers Mass
- Bosco's Got Talent
- Awards Afternoon
- Whole School Assemblies
- Catholic School's Choir Competition
- Musical Theatre Trips

Partnerships Supporting Musical Experiences

- Liverpool Lighthouse Theatre Gospel Choir Workshop
- Status Quo Drumming Workshop
- ISING
- Pianoman Masterclass with Richard Meyrick
- Sound City Music Careers Day
- Musical Theatre workshops with Cahir O'Neill

Areas for development

Ask in staff meeting if any staff member would be willing to lead an ensemble or offer extra music support.

In the future

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

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