

Music development plan summary: *St Bede's RC High School Blackburn*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2026
Name of the school music lead	C Keighley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	H Gardner
Name of local music hub	Blackburn with Darwen
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.

At St Bede's, KS3 pupils benefit from 2 hour's music curriculum per fortnight, through one hourly lesson per week. KS4 pupils benefit from 5 hours lesson time per fortnight. KS4 pupils either follow the GCSE course (Eduqas) or the Btec Tech Award Level 1 and 2 in Music Practice.

Our KS3 Schemes of Work have been planned in line with the Music Model Curriculum. Each unit is carefully sequenced to build up knowledge and skills and is delivered over a half term. Pupils develop skills in all 4 of the strands, (singing, performing, composing and listening), which are interleaved throughout the schemes. The units in KS3 have been designed to cover the elements of music through knowledge rich content.

All pupils are given the opportunity to learn how to play a range of instruments during curriculum time. Pupils are taught how to follow and play rhythm and notation on the keyboard, ukulele and drums. All pupils take part in whole class singing activities, including 2/4 parts and harmonies. The curriculum is carefully designed to develop skills from a beginner level to a more proficient level as they progress through the key stages. All pupils participate in both whole class and smaller group ensembles.

The curriculum is adapted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. Resources are adapted to suit the individual learner and ensure that progress is made each lesson. Funding is available for SEND and LAC, for instrumental tuition and we have several pupils who take up this opportunity. As part of this funding/ support, LAC and SEND pupils are also given a brand-new instrument to take home and practice.

Pupils are given the opportunity to continue with Music at KS4. They can choose either GCSE Music or Btec Tech Award Level 1 / 2 in Music Practice. There is a good uptake for both qualifications, with approximately 15-20% of pupils continuing with their Music education. Pupils often continue with Music into KS5.

There is also the opportunity for pupils to take graded music exams with ABRSM, Trinity and LCM.

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.

We have a team of peripatetic instrumental tutors who come in to school once a week. Extra tuition is offered, at a cost, to all pupils on the following instruments:

Brass

Woodwind

Strings

Piano/Keyboard

Singing

Guitar/Bass

Drums

Tuition delivered by the Peripatetic Instrumental Tutors plays a key role in the music development of the pupils. The Tutors liaise closely with the teaching staff to help to support pupils in developing GCSE/Btec Non-Exam Assessment material and also in preparing pupils for school performances. In these extra lessons, pupils deepen their

understanding of notation and rhythm, as well as the other elements of music. Our Tutors encourage good technique on the chosen instruments and prepare well sequenced lessons to ensure good progress. Our tutors are freelance, professional musicians and they provide a safe and caring atmosphere fitting the ethos of the department. We have a good uptake for peripatetic lessons. Instruments and tuition for LAC is funded by school. Pupils are loaned the use of an instrument to practise on at home. They are all encouraged to participate in co-curricular music.

The co-curricular activities on offer are:

Choir - weekly

Swing Band - weekly

Rock club - weekly

Performing Arts Club – weekly

Pupils are encouraged to join the instrumental ensembles such as the Swing Band and Rock Club. There is an open invitation for all pupils in school to join the Choir, Music Tech Club and the Performing Arts Club.

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.

Pupils take part in regular performances throughout the year. Performances in school include a Christmas Showcase, Summer Showcase and a Production. We also participate in local community performances and every year we collaborate with two feeder primary schools for a charity concert in the local Catholic Church. The choir is given the opportunity to sing as an ensemble at the Yr 7 Welcome Mass and the Yr 11 Leavers Mass. Musicians are invited to perform for events such as the Senior Citizens Christmas Party, the family Afternoon Tea event, KS3/4 Awards Evenings and Yr 11 Leaver's Prize Night. We also perform during Open Evening, both in a formal and informal setting. We coordinate and perform at a Carol Singing event at the local residential home for Senior Citizens.

Last year we invited all our ensemble players to a residential trip. The focus of the weekend away was to rehearse and learn new repertoire. It was a great success, and this will become an annual event.

This year, we will be holding an informal evening concert for parents of pupils who are not yet confident enough to perform in a larger setting. This will be a good starting point for our younger and less experienced musicians to help them grow in confidence and

learn to love performing. It will also be an opportunity for parents and carers to meet the instrumental tutors.

In the future

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

- An annual trip to a live music event.
- To further develop the curriculum, drawing on the expertise and skills of new teaching staff.