

Music development plan summary: [Sandbach School]

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Grace Barber
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sue Bielby
Name of local music hub	Love Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Royal Northern College of Music and Love Music Trust (lead partner is the Cheshire and Wirral Hub)

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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

Students receive 1 hour a week of Music at Key Stage 3. The Music Curriculum journey is designed to be practical, engaging and culturally diverse providing breadth and depth. The curriculum develops the key skills of listening, performing and composing. All music lessons are planned to use instruments/resources that are accessible and age appropriate to the students. We provide access to alternative instruments where necessary. All teachers and staff know when and how to differentiate appropriately using approaches which enable pupils to be taught effectively. Each year we plan to meet the needs of our students and develop understanding of how a range of factors can inhibit pupils' ability to learn and how best to overcome these. We target students eligible for pupil premium and support these students to engage in musical opportunities and tuition through this funding.

Across KS3, students have opportunities to listen to and interact with music from a wide range of cultures and traditions in all key stages including Western Classical Music, Popular Music (defined broadly) and World Music.

Singing is a key part of the curriculum and is nurtured from when the boys start in Year 7. For example, Year 7 perform and sing in our school's Commemoration Day service at St Mary's Church in October and in our annual Christmas Concert in December which subsequently informs our schemes of work in Year 7.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum involves an enriching experience in both Music and Music Technology both of which are options at GCSE/Level 2. We offer AQA GCSE Music and Pearson BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Music Practice for which students receive 2 hours of tuition per week in Year 10 and 3 hours of tuition per week in Year 11. Similarly, these pathways continue in Years 12 and 13 where we run AQA A level Music and RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners. Students receive 5 hours of tuition per week at A level.

All of our curriculum plans and year sequences can be located here:

<https://sandbachschool.org/our-school/departments/music/>

Our aim this year is to attend a Cheshire East Schools' networking meeting to discuss curriculum maps/provision within both primary and secondary Cheshire East schools and to implement any potential developments that arise from the meeting.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

We have a strong set of instrumental peripatetic tutors who offer one to one instrumental lessons in Strings (including Guitars), Woodwind, Brass and Percussion. Pupil Premium students at Sandbach School are entitled to free one to one instrumental tuition and we have a good number of these students taking up this offer.

Our local hub, The Love Music Trust, offer affordable instrumental hire and many of our tutors also work for the hub's ensemble groups / partner ensembles e.g. Percussion Ensemble and So Strings. We also have a limited number of instruments in the department which we hire out to students e.g. drum kits, guitars

Students are able to follow an examined pathway in their peripatetic lessons and tutors cover a wide range of qualifications and exam boards from ABRSM to Trinity to Rock School. Last year we collaboratively organised (between ourselves and the LMT) and hosted an exam visit from the ABRSM in the summer term. This was especially beneficial to percussion students from our school and further afield due to the availability of all the percussion equipment we have at our school. We will aim to plan for this opportunity again at the end of this academic year.

Whole Class Instrumental Teaching is delivered once a year to Year 7. We hire the instruments free of charge from The Love Music Trust and deliver the programme through our specialist department staff. Initial training was given from The Love Music Trust who led the first project and supported subsequent projects. Our department staff are fully trained to deliver the programme. Students demonstrate their ability to play and read the notes on a brass instrument and perform in a class ensemble performance. Our A level Music students are placed in these lessons where possible, to be able to support students on a one-to-one basis or support with any identified needs in the classroom and aid progress. At the end of the project, students are encouraged to continue learning the instrument.

Moving forward we aim to improve continuation numbers through identifying gifted and talented students in the project and work out an option to provide subsidised small group tuition.

Extra-curricular Programme

The Maxwell-Davies centre is a purpose-built music department which houses 2 large teaching spaces and 7 practice rooms. In addition to the equipment used for the curriculum, both teaching spaces contain a grand piano and drum kit which help to facilitate both lessons and rehearsals after school. Each of the practice rooms contain an electric piano and one room has a drum kit, which allows for students to rehearse both within and outside of lesson time. Additionally, we also use a nearby classroom which also doubles up as a rehearsal venue, and a teaching space for keyboard harmony (contains 6 pianos).

Sandbach School has a strong tradition of providing extra-curricular activities. Our current list of available music extra-curricular activities is located here:

[https://sandbachschool.org/download/xtra-program/?wpdmdl=7431`](https://sandbachschool.org/download/xtra-program/?wpdmdl=7431)

Our music ensembles include Choir, Junior Big Band, Senior Big Band, Concert Orchestra, Brass Phats and String Ensemble. These groups all perform in our termly concerts as well as performing in many events within the community e.g. Remembrance services, Christmas Markets, Town Hall events and Sandbach Concert Series <https://www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk>

Our school Big Band runs 3 additional concerts a year which feature professional artists. For example, each year Matthew Ford who regularly sings with the BBC Big Band and John Wilson Orchestra sings with our Big Band. Last year we also welcomed Tom Seals to sing and play with the band.

In the last 3 years we have relaunched our annual Whole School Musical which invites all year groups to take part, and these productions are accompanied by our school's Concert Orchestra. Our shows include Les Miserables, Anything Goes and this year we are running Guys and Dolls in February. Our department work very closely with the performing arts department, and we codirect these shows.

Outside of school, our students are encouraged to attend rehearsals of ensembles that rehearse and use our facilities here at Sandbach School: Lion's Youth Brass, LMT Saxophone Orchestra, LMT Big Band, LMT Percussion Ensemble, LMT Young Voices, LMT Folk Ensemble, Cheshire and Wirral Show Choir, So Strings and Foden's Youth: <https://www.lovemusictrust.com/parents-and-pupils/ensembles>. Other ensembles further afield are encouraged for students to join e.g. Congleton Youth Orchestra, Macclesfield Youth Band and Co-operative Wind Band.

Specialist Pathways in Music

We offer 10% of places at our school for students in Year 6 who have a musical aptitude and who are out of our catchment area. Students submit a video recording demonstrating their musical ability and potential. These students form a core part of our ensembles.

Additionally, we have a pathway for musically able students at A level for both our students at Sandbach School and from surrounding areas. Through the partnership between The Love Music Trust, the Royal Northern College of Music and Sandbach School we offer a Specialist A level Music Course in addition to A level Music. Students of approximately grade 7/8 standard or those that feel that music is a potential career, audition for one of 12 places available on the course each year. Students receive 5 hours a week of specialist tuition in Keyboard Harmony, Aural training, Chamber Choir and Chamber Music ensembles. Additionally, students visit the RNCM for a termly lesson with an RNCM tutor in their specialism and are invited to attend any workshops or concerts at the RNCM. Since its fruition, the course has had many successes, with students year upon year receiving offers to study at renowned music conservatoires, many with scholarships too.

Moving forward we need to publicise both pathways even more to try and reach those students further afield who have a musical aptitude.

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.

Performances:

Students are introduced to the musical life of the school straight away when they arrive in Year 7. The entire year group sing our school hymn and Parry's Jerusalem at our

school's Commemoration Day service at St Mary's Church in October, and we also feature the entire year group at our annual Christmas Concert.

In terms of our performance calendar, we organise many performances across the year. These are the performances planned for this year so far:

Sandbach School Music Department Events 2024/25

Date	Time	Event/Meeting etc	Year group (s) involved	Venue
29.08.24	12-1.30pm	Music Transition afternoon with Y6	6	MD2
18.09.24	4-6.30	Open Evening (performances in the Theatre Space)	Certain students	Theatre Space
9.10.24	8.30-10.30am	Commemoration Day – Specialist Choir at St Mary's Church and entire Year 7	Y12 & 13 + <u>other</u> musicians tbc Y7	St Mary's Church
11.10.24 + 12.10.24	9.30 – 11.30am	LMT Orchestral Weekend with Congleton Youth Orchestra	Y12 & 13 Specialist + any who wish to apply	Congleton
13.11.24	6.00pm	6 th Form Open Evening & Specialist A level Music Course Launch	<u>Yr</u> 11 + Y12/13 specialist student performances	MD2
15.11.24	Afternoon & evening	Big Band performing at North West Educate Awards	Years 7-13	Liverpool
20.11.24	7.30pm	Matt Ford with Sandbach School Big Band	Years 7-13	Theatre Space
29.11.24	8.30-1pm 4-6pm	INSET – GUYS AND DOLLS RUN THROUGH Wind Orchestra Christmas Carols	All students performing / involved in the show	Theatre Sandbach Cobbles
05.12.24	6.30pm	Christmas Concert	All year groups & ensembles	Sports Hall
18.12.24	6.30pm	Carol Service	All year groups & concert orchestra and Specialist Chamber choir	St Mary's Church
17.01.25	All day	Specialist A level Music Audition Day	Y11	Maxwell Davies
08.02.25	All day	Tech Rehearsal for Musical	All students performing / involved in the show	Theatre Space
09.02.25	All day	Dress rehearsal	All students performing / involved in the show	Theatre Space
10.02.25- 12.02.25	5-9pm	'Guys and Dolls' Show Nights	All students performing / involved in the show	Theatre Space
13.03.25	ALL DAY	GCSE Recording Coursework Day	11	Maxwell Davies Centre
20.03.25	ALL DAY	A Level Recording Coursework Day	12-13	Maxwell Davies Centre
02.04.25	Periods 1-4	House Music Competition	All	Theatre Space
03.04.25	6.30pm	Spring Concert and Foden's Band	All	Theatre Space
09.05.25	4.30pm	Senior Awards	Y11-13	Sports Hall
21.06.25	6.30pm	Viva Las Vegas (Big Band)	10-13	Theatre Space
18.06.25	All day	LMT Bandstand at Cheshire Show (school ensembles)	All	<u>Tabley</u> Showground
28.06.25		LMT Celebration weekend		<u>Clonter?</u>
01.07.25	All day	RNCM visit with Specialist A level Musicians	<u>Yrs</u> 11-13	RNCM
02.07.25	1.30pm	Y9 & Y10 Awards		Sports Hall
03.07.25	1.30pm	Y8 Graduation		Sports Hall
03.07.25	6.30pm	Summer Concert	All	Theatre Space
12.07.25	6.30pm	Party in the Park with Big Band	Ys 8-13	Sandbach Park
14.07-18.07		Enrichment week – Band Project		MD

We aim to make our events accessible to all and therefore there is only a charge for certain events across the year (pupil premium students/families access these free of charge).

We often receive requests for music at community events and local primary schools. We aim to facilitate these as much as possible. This year we have already received requests from Offley Primary and Cledford Primary to deliver music assemblies to their students and we have also received a request to provide music at the Dementia UK Christmas event (something we have done in the past).

Our performances and experiences are posted on our department YouTube Channel where you will find videos of past performances:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SandbachSchoolMusic>

Trips

We organise a concert tour for our ensembles every 2/3 years to allow students to experience the life of a touring musician. Last year we went to the Netherlands and previous destinations have included Italy, Germany and Spain. Pupil Premium students are given a 10% discount on these tours.

For our music technology qualification, our students are taken to a professional recording studio each year to gain insight into the practice used and equipment housed in a studio, which ultimately contributes to one of their assessed units.

In the future

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

Our music curriculum mapping is a continuous aspect of our department focus and we are passionate about reflecting and adapting the curriculum depending on our cohorts and student needs. One area of the curriculum that we aim to develop is to see if we can introduce new instruments to our KS3 curriculum. For example, djembes and African drumming.

Additionally, thanks to the Love Music Trust, we will be networking with primary and other secondary schools in Cheshire East to discuss our curriculum. From these discussions we will be able to implement any changes that arise from this meeting.

In terms of extra-curricular music, as we already have a lot of opportunities for students to perform in concerts, workshops and shows, we would like to extend those opportunities to encourage any local school children to be able to attend one/some of these. For example, inviting local secondary school students to perform in our Whole School Musical. Additionally, we aim to develop music transition from primary to

secondary school as this is something we have started in the last year, and we would like to build on this progress.