Music development plan summary: St Paul's Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	Sept 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sep 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr K McInnis
Name of local music hub	Royal Greenwich Music Service

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 St Paul's 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.

All students in Key Stage 3 (Y7-Y9) receive weekly 55-minute music lessons.

The curriculum is informed by the DfE's model music curriculum and is designed to offer all students broad musical knowledge and experience of different times and cultures, genres, artists, instruments and technologies. The curriculum has been designed to celebrate the diversity across the Art form.

At St Paul's, the curriculum also allows students to develop their creativity and express themselves through music. We ensure our curriculum is progressive, constantly building on students' performance, composition and appraising skills.

All lessons involve active participation in music making, be that on keyboard, xylophones, through singing, ukuleles or drumming. Whole-class ensemble playing is a regular feature of our lessons.

We have a partnership with Goldsmiths University, through which we enhance our students' experience with specialists in composition, instrumental performance, and music literacy.

In Key Stage 4, students study towards a GCSE in Music (Eduqas C660QS).

Part B: Extra-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.

All students at St Paul's have the option to receive one-to-one music tuition on piano, voice, guitar, bass guitar or drum kit. This year we hope to introduce woodwind lessons at KS3.

At GCSE, all instrumental tuition is 100% subsidised.

Other activities available to students include the weekly school choir, two lunchtime keyboard clubs and a school band. All clubs are offered free of charge, and there are no barriers to entry beyond simply turning up.

Since March 2025, we have been trialing flute lessons in small groups with the aim of diversifying our instrumental tuition offer and broadening the aspiration of our students. Cello lessons are due to are also on offer from September 2026

To help students make the best progress, we also offer instrumental loans for those who have difficulty affording an instrument.

Of course, practice is essential to good musical development. For this reason, we provide practice rooms for our students which can be booked for personal use.

We are pleased to be supported by the Royal Greenwich Music Service, who provide our flutes and cellos.

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.

Experiencing live music performance is important to us.

Every year, we aim provide several opportunities for our students to perform and otherwise experience live music. The main events are:

- Arts Showcases
- Feast Day
- Cultural Day

Every year group is encouraged to get involved, with audition and sign-ups publicised in advance through our online platforms and during arts lessons (music, dance, drama).

We have also visited the Queen's House Concerts, organised by Trinity Laban. We intended to continue our engagement with this series of intimate live classical concerts, as these present a unique opportunity for students to experience fine music up close.

Most of our live events are heavily subsidised. Our in-school concert tickets are charged below £3.

In the future

We are on the path to improving music opportunities for all our students. The aim is to embed more music within the Catholic life of the school.

We will continue to build community links through the Hub and with London-based music organisations as well as collaborating with schools out of London.

We aim to:

- Continue to expand the range of instrumental lessons on offer
- Develop a Samba drums and Steel Pan ensemble
- Provide all KS3 and GCSE music students with an experience of live music performance at least once per year, at a minimum, by September 2027
- Continue to review the curriculum ensuring it is ambitious and progressive