Music development plan summary:
Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	6th January 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	19th April 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr J Smith
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Knowsley Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Schools Music Service (Liverpool)

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.

Music is on the curriculum timetable for one hour per week as KS3. As detailed on the curriculum overview on the school website, the curriculum has been constructed as a spiral curriculum, in order to bring back core skills through a variety of topics. Whole-class ensemble work is included to develop confidence and team-work skills while playing an array of instruments including the ukulele, guitar, piano and drums.

The school music curriculum has always featured an ensemble project as outlined by the government's model music curriculum, as it allows pupils to develop their practical and auditory skills and to apply them as a class or group ensemble. This is showcased best through our 'The Blues' topic which takes place in Year 8, and requires the pupils to work together to create a piece of Blues music.

Pupils have sung in Primary school, and this is continued into KS3, particularly in Year 7 where hymns and other songs are learned during class time to develop confidence and ability, as well as the ability to sing in time with others to a piano accompaniment.

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.

The school has traditionally offered peripatetic music tuition to all of our pupils, and these lessons run during the school day and offer a wide range of instruments, including vocals. As of this academic year, we currently have 65 pupils enrolled in this programme and the opportunity to enter for London College of Music examination is offered each Summer term for any pupil who would like to gain their certificates in practical exams. Entry fees for these exams are paid for by the school and tuition fees for peripatetic lessons are subsidised for our pupils, with additional subsidisations for pupils who are eligible for pupil premium rates. These peripatetic lessons are sourced from skilled and experienced tutors from Knowsley Music Service and the Schools Music Service.

The music area is consistently available to pupils at break and lunch time, with our pupils taking advantage of our plentiful rehearsal spaces to practise practical task done in class or learn new pieces on their own or with colleagues.

The academy runs a school choir offered to all age groups and plans are in place to launch pupil bands, beginning with our KS4 pupils, with the aim of boosting their confidence through school performances. A music club is also offered every Monday after school and Wednesday lunch time to allow pupils to work with music staff to expand their musical skillset and improve their confidence. Confidence has been mentioned numerous times in this summary, as it is essential to develop this through solo and ensemble rehearsing and performing to become an effective young musician.

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.

We have three performances per year in conjunction with our partners Knowsley Music Service, where we showcase the talents of our pupils through their solo and ensemble

pieces. We also feature an annual trip for all of Year 7 to Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, where pupils take part in a Key Stage 3 concert with a different theme each year. Pupils highly value this experience and have gone on to learn an instrument at school as a direct result of seeing professional players on stage.

In the future

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

Introducing Grade 1 Music theory for all of Year 7 and placing additional emphasis on score-reading and writing.
The potential to offer each Yr7 pupil an instrumental place to further boost outcomes of pupils in Music, (subsidised by 20%).