

Music development plan summary: St Monica's RC High School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Miss K Bryant
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Bury Music Service

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.

Your school should already publish the school curriculum for music for each year group online. This should also include how you are increasing access for disabled pupils and supporting pupils with special educational needs (SEND). Include a link to this information in this summary. For more, see the school information guidance on curriculum and on SEND for [maintained schools](#) and for [academies and free schools](#).

If not included in your published school curriculum information, set out how time per week is allocated for curriculum music for each key stage and term (or each half-term) of the academic year.

Also consider including:

- whether your school music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021), non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3 or any other published curriculum guidance.
- a brief summary of the opportunities pupils have to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time, such as through whole-class ensemble teaching in some or all year groups.
- information on any partnerships the school has to support curriculum music, such as with your local music hub or other music education organisations. If you are a music hub lead school, you can refer to this here.

For secondary schools: Set out what music qualifications and awards pupils can study and achieve at the school in the academic year, including graded music exams (all key stages) and GCSE, A level or vocational and technical qualifications (at key stage 4 and 16 to 18). If your school already publishes this information, include a link in this summary.

From Sept 2024, Year 7 have 1 hour of music, per week for the full academic year. Year 8 and 9 have 1 hour of music per fortnight for the full academic year. Year 10 and 11 GCSE students have music for 5 hours per fortnight.

GCSE students study EDUQAS GCSE Music. Students who have instrumental or vocal lessons can be entered for ABRSM or Trinity exams.

The new Year 7 and 8 curriculum is designed to give pupils as many practical experiences of music as possible, so that they learn through playing music. There is a plan in place for this curriculum to flow through into Year 9, as we increase the curriculum time year by year. By Sept 2026, all KS3 pupils should have 1 hour of music per week.

The scheme of work has been informed by the Model Music Curriculum and also influenced by Musical Futures.

Pupils will have opportunities to learn to sing and play keyboards, guitars, drum kit, tuned percussion, untuned percussion and African drums, and music technology.

They will learn as a class ensemble, soloists and also in groups and paired work.

The school works closely with Bury Music service and facilitates instrumental lesson in drums, guitar, flute, clarinet/sax, piano, singing, violin and brass.

Members of BMS Curriculum team will also be teaching 5 periods of Year 7 and 8 this year.

We have worked with Comino to take part in training and creative projects and hope that this will continue this year.

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.

Start with what music tuition your school offers outside of what is taught in lesson time, including one-to-one, small-group and large-group tuition for instruments or voice.

Set out what ensembles that pupils can join outside of what is taught in lesson time, such as choirs or vocal ensembles, as well as instrumental ensembles, bands and groups, and other forms of music-making.

Set out how pupils can make progress in music outside of lesson time, including instrument loans, weekend, after-school or holiday provision such as Saturday music centres, and any qualifications or awards pupils can achieve.

Also consider including:

- what instruments are offered, charging and remissions information, and if the tuition is subsidised or free, including for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).

- how pupils can join choirs or ensembles and from which year groups, charging and remissions information, and if the tuition is subsidised or free, including for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).
- information on where pupils can rehearse or practice individually or in groups.

Draw on information of any partnerships the school has to support co-curricular music, such as with your local music hub or other music education organisations.

Alternative titles for Part B could be 'Extra-curricular music' or 'Music tuition, choirs and ensembles'.

Bury Music Service provide instrumental and vocal teaching in drums, guitar, flute, clarinet/sax, piano, singing, violin and brass. Pupils can opt for individual or small group lessons. PP students' lessons are paid for by school.

<https://burymusic.co.uk/>

BMS staff also run a Rock Band and Junior & Senior choir, held at lunch times.

We run an orchestra rehearsal after school. Pupils are also encouraged to practise at lunch or after school, if the timetable allows, and Rock Bands have previously formed by themselves, rehearsing after school.

All ensembles are open to anyone who can play or sing at the appropriate level.

Instruments are loaned, where applicable, by BMS, once they sign up for lessons. PP students who play piano are loaned a school keyboard so they can practise at home.

Students are encouraged by their teacher to join BMS centre activities, where suitable. Pupils are also encouraged to take practical exams if the BMS staff feel it is suitable for them.

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.

Set out what musical experiences are planned for the academic year, including regular events such as singing in assembly, musical performances, concerts and shows at the school, and trips to concerts outside of the school.

For musical performances, concerts and shows in and out of schools, include how pupils get involved and from which year groups, whether pupils are participating or are members of the audience.

Also consider including:

- charging information, and if events are subsidised or free, including for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).

Draw on information of any partnerships the school has to support musical experiences, such as with your local music hub, music education organisations, music organisations or musicians.

Alternative titles for Part C could be 'Musical events' or 'Musical performances'.

There will be an Advent Service held at Our Lady of Grace, jointly with Our Lady Of Grace R C Primary School, a local feeder school. There will be choir performances, orchestra leading the Carols, readings, prayers and drama.

St Monica's will perform a version of this Advent Service for Nazareth House, the local Care Home.

The Choir will sing in the in-school Advent Services and Lent Services.

There will be a Summer Concert held in school to show off the talent and hard work of the pupils throughout the year.

For 2 years in a row, the Rock Band has competed in the BMS Battle of the Bands. A 3rd attempt will take place in Feb 2026.

For the first time in many years, the Drama Department are planning to put on a play, and the Music Department will support, hopefully with the opportunity to create and perform some music for the play.

(After the success of "The Sound of Music", we will put on another musical production in the following year)

Pupils from all years will be involved in these events. For the concerts, any pupils who have instrumental lessons, either from BMS or privately, will be encouraged to perform.

Concerts and Services are free to everyone.

In the future

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

Use this space to include any information on any improvements you plan to make for subsequent years in curriculum music, co-curricular music or musical experiences, including when you plan to introduce changes.

Also consider including:

- any information that relates to the 7 features of high-quality music provision (see the text box at the beginning of the template), such as increasing lesson time to one hour a week each term, introducing the teaching of new instruments or having a termly school performance.

There is a plan to continue increasing curriculum time across KS3, therefore we will eventually be needing another member of staff. This will increase the number of extracurricular activities we can offer.

There is a plan for the whole KS3 curriculum, ready to ensure pupils have experienced the whole NC by the end of KS3.

In 2025-26 we will be introducing a second Rock Band, led by Mr Sweeney from BMS. As the current band are mostly in Yr11, it is important to start up a younger group who can continue the tradition for years to come.

I would like the number of pupils involved in choir to grow. During 2024-25, the 2 choirs were taken by different BMS staff and one choir rehearsed on different days each week, which some pupils found confusing. In 2025-26, both choirs will be taken by the same BMS teacher and will be fixed to the same day of the week, which should help

We have fixed up some rock band equipment and purchased new amps and the numbers of pupils interested is continuing to grow.

I would like the number of pupils playing instruments and having lessons, to grow and therefore the number in the school orchestra to grow. We have signed up to the BMS taster session where staff perform to Year 7 in an assembly. Pupils are then invited to come and have a free taster lesson during the first 2 weeks of term.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.