

# Music development plan summary: St George's Academy

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	25-26
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Catherine Vernon
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire 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.

### Key Stage 3

In key stage 3, students have one lesson per week. Students cover a range of performing, composing and appraising tasks. They experience performing on a range of instruments including keyboards, percussion, ukulele, voice and guitar. In year 8 students can choose which instrument to focus on as part of their ensemble tasks. Students also learn how to operate Garageband and use it as a tool for composition. The year 9 curriculum is based around a skills progression path and prepares students for GCSE Music. The learning journey for key stage 3 can be viewed here:

### Key Stage 4

Students will only have music lessons if they have taken the subject as an option. They have five lessons per fortnight. The course we deliver is Eduqas GCSE Music. Learning journeys can be viewed here:

### Key Stage 5

Students will only have music lessons if they have taken the subject as an option. Students opting for the RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma have six taught hours each

week plus one hour of supervised study. Students opting for the RSL Level 3 Diploma have nine taught hours each week plus two hours of supervised study. The Level 3 Music option has a vocational focus and prepares students for further study of Music at university or entry into the industry.

## **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.

Students can also opt to take instrumental lessons at school and these are delivered by teacher from Lincolnshire Music Service as well as private teachers. Students can work towards taking graded exams – either ABRSM or Trinity Rock and Pop. Lessons are offered in strings, brass, woodwind, drum kit, guitar, piano, and voice. Lessons cost £13 per 30 minute lesson. Students in year 9-13 can receive a 50% subsidy if they attend an extra curricular activity within the music department. FSM students who take music as an option in years 9-11 are eligible to have their lessons paid for using pupil premium funding.

At St George's Academy we offer a wide range of extra curricular activities. These activities are all free to attend. Some activities are open to all students, some by invitation only. A full timetable is on display in the music department and students should speak to their music teacher if they would like to attend a group. Ensembles on offer include: Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Vocal Harmony Group, Session Band, Ensemble Bash, a range of contemporary bands for different year groups, Song-writing Club, Orchestra, Production Band and Triple Threat. St George's Academy is the host school for Sleaford Music Centre which takes place on Tuesday evenings and includes a range of ensembles suitable for all.

We are fortunate to be a well-resourced department. Practice rooms are available for students to use within lessons as well as for personal practice. Our sixth form ambassadors organise use of rehearsal room during lunchtimes.

## **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.

At St George's Academy we provide a wide range of musical experiences and know the importance of providing students with the opportunity to perform, both within and outside of school. Furthermore, we realise the importance of ensuring students 'aim

high' and aspire to develop their music skills and we therefore take advantage of every opportunity for students to see live performance. This includes:

**Big Sing** – students in year 7 and 8 take part in a Big Sing performance assembly every term. Ensembles perform in the assembly and then the whole year group performs a song they have been learning in lessons. This is accompanied by a live sixth form band.

**Recital** – a small scale performance opportunity at the end of term 1. Students who are having instrumental lessons will perform some of the repertoire they have been learning to an invited audience. Students from both campuses involved.

**Christmas Cabaret** – Large scale performance. This is an opportunity for the musical ensembles to perform to an audience. Performers also watch each other, providing an opportunity for younger students to see the older students perform.

**Christmas Concert** – Performance opportunity at the Ruskington campus. Involves extra-curricular ensembles and soloists/duets.

**Sister Act: Academy Production** – Annual academy production alongside the Performing Arts department. Includes a live band.

**Summer Cabaret** - Large scale performance. This is another opportunity for the musical ensembles to perform to an audience. Performers also watch each other, providing an opportunity for younger students to see the older students perform.

**Summer Concert** – A further opportunity for students at the Ruskington Campus to perform. Involves extra-curricular ensembles and soloists/duets.

**Regional Music for Youth Festival** – Two or three extra curricular ensembles are selected to perform at the Regional Music for Youth Festival in Boston. This provides an opportunity for these students to perform outside of school but also to see other young people from across the county performing.

**Battle of the Bands** – Performance opportunity for KS4 students.

**Choir Festival** – Involves local primary and secondary school choirs. This is organised by and takes place at St George's Academy. Students have the opportunity to perform but also experience being in a leadership role. Sixth form students take responsibility for stage management.

**Primary Music Tour** – Work experience project for year 12 students. The group plan and rehearse a 30-minute live music performance that is then taken to local primary schools.

**Giant Orchestra Day** – Held at Carre's Grammar school. Students have the opportunity to perform as part of a giant orchestra.

All of these events are free for participants. Where students are representing the school at external events, travel costs are subsidised.

We are fortunate to have forged links with Lincolnshire Music Service and a number of schools in the local area, and have developed a reputation for excellence. This often results in musical opportunities arising during the year. Previously this has included Primary Music Festival, National Music for Youth Festival, Music for Youth Proms, Voice It, Sleaford Live, LMS Instrumental Teacher Training Day.

## In the future

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

### **Key Stage 3**

We are continually reviewing the KS3 curriculum in order to ensure that we are providing a well-rounded music education that is accessible for all. A focus for this year is to ensure that those students who have shown an interest or talent in music in year 6, bring this through into year 7 and engage with our curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

### **Key Stage 4**

We have made the decision to move to GCSE Music following a number of years delivering vocational courses. The current year 11 cohort are the first group through.

### **Extra-curricular music**

This year, we aim to ensure that students are aware of the opportunities provided by Sleaford Music Centre and encourage attendance.

### **Musical experiences**

Battle of the Bands was successfully reintroduced in May 2024 and has proven to motivate students into engaging in meaningful practice time. As a result, this will now be an annual event.

We would also like to encourage students who are taking instrumental lessons to work towards a graded exam. Discussions have taken place with Trinity Rock and Pop exam board and St George's Academy has now become a centre for exams. The opportunity to take a graded exam in a familiar and accessible place will remove a barrier for some students. We have also introduced a small-scale Recital at the end of term 1 during which these targeted students will perform to their parents. It will also provide an opportunity for parents to speak to instrumental teachers in person regarding graded exams.