

Music development plan summary: *De La School St Helens*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	C Skinner
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	C Mulhall
Name of local music hub	St Helens Music Services
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Partnership with The Royal Northern College of Music planned for spring 2025

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 the pupils can achieve.

Every pupil in years 7, 8 and 9 receives one one-hour lesson of music per week. The curriculum covers all of the aims set out in the National Curriculum for Music and is informed by the model music curriculum.

The learning journey for music can be accessed on the school website. If pupils choose to take music as an option subject at Key Stage 4, they will receive five one-hour lessons per fortnight.

In Key Stage 3, pupils have many opportunities to learn an instrument. The majority of lesson time is spent embedding the elements of music through various instruments, exploring an array of genres, musical styles and world music which give pupils the building blocks they need to continue learning and developing their instrument if they choose to take music at Key Stage 4.

All pupils have the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge of the keyboard, guitar, African drums and ukulele within lesson time. Singing is an integral part of the curriculum

and there are opportunities in years 7, 8 and 9 to develop singing skills. In addition to this, all pupils experience music technology in years 7, 8 and 9, creating DAW projects using a variety of music technology software.

Pupils can achieve a range of qualifications and awards in music at De La Salle School. At Key Stage 4, we currently offer the AQA GCSE in Music, as well as the Pearson BTEC Vocational Award in Music Production.

Pupils who opt for Key Stage 4 music will be offered free peripatetic lessons to support their skills base and studies. Alongside this, all students can work towards a graded music exam. The school has a partnership with St Helens music hub.

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.

At De La Salle School we have a wide variety of opportunities beyond the core curriculum which all students can take advantage of.

The first part of this is our instrumental peripatetic lesson scheme. We have 5 visiting teachers who are all professional musicians. We are unique in that we also utilise the talents of our own staff in brass and vocal tuition. Pupils can learn any of the following instruments: piano, keyboard, violin, viola, singing, flute, saxophone, oboe, trumpet, trombone, French horn, euphonium, cornet, classical guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, drum kit. Pupils can work towards graded exams in their instrument(s).

Lessons are completed during the school day on a rotation basis so that pupils do not miss the same school lessons. We have instrumental loan schemes as well as financial support so that all students are able to access instruments.

All year 7 students are offered free music lessons in the first term to foster and support a love of music.

We also offer ensemble development through band and orchestra rehearsals, as well as weekly DLS Singers. Music Theory Club is offered to enhance attainment in music. These are all free to join and be part of. Each group takes part in multiple performances throughout the year.

All students are welcome at break, lunchtime and afterschool to use the department practice rooms to further their studies.

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.

There are performance opportunities throughout the year. These include peripatetic showcases with support from music professionals in St Helens music hub held once a term; liturgical choir events; and our Carol Service. We also perform in and around the community, including visits to nursing homes and supporting the school's pensioners Christmas party, as well as joining together with local secondary and feeder schools to be part of the All-Star Mass choir award ceremony. Across the Performing Arts department, pupils have the opportunity to perform in assemblies, allowing them to gain performance experience and their peers to hear high quality music. Pupils are encouraged to join free ensemble groups with St Helens Music Hub and the school also puts on a whole school production every year. We take pupils to as many professional concerts as we can.

This year, pupils have attended a careers in music event at St Helens College. Pupils have also attended trips to Chester University and recorded music in the studios there, as well regular trips to Liverpool British Music Experience.

In the future

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

We would like to create links with other links with music education organisations. The Royal Northern College of Music to enrich and raise aspirations.

In the future we will be building on different bands and ensembles to support and enrich music provision in the school. These may include jazz band, brass band, rock group and the house band. These will continue to be all free to join and be part of.