

Music Development Plan Summary: St Paul's Way Trust Secondary School

Detail	Information
Date reviewed	1 st September 2026
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Name of the school music lead	Zoë Miara
Associate Senior Leader for Arts	Louise Addison-Pereira
SLT Line Manager	William Maynard
Name of local music hub	Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Service (THAMES)
Name of other music education organisation (s) (if partnership in place)	Drumworks Wyatt Sinfonia Ronnie Scott's Barbican Centre Guildhall School of Music & Drama Voces8 Foundation Sizewell C & Outcry Ensemble Tenebrae Royal London Hospital Music for Youth World Heartbeat Foundation Royal Academy of Music (Widening Participation branch) London Symphony Orchestra

Curriculum Music

Our curriculum follows the national curriculum, teaching performance (both instrumental and vocal), listening, composition and improvisation across KS3 in a spiral curriculum with increasing difficulty. The breadth and depth of the KS3 curriculum, including grasp of music technology, complemented by our co-curricular offer, means that pupils are well prepared to continue learning at KS4 and KS5. We have a strong track record of results at GCSE, including pupils who joined us with no prior instrumental experience.

Our curriculum development aims are:

- All pupils should understand **why** a music education is important and how it can be valuable for them even if they do not pursue further study at GCSE
- Pupils should be able to identify with the curriculum and feel it is relevant to them
- All pupils to receive an excellent quality music education at KS3, through a blended model of a practical focus supported by cultural context and theoretical knowledge
- Pupils should develop cultural capital to be able to engage in meaningful conversations about music and to be able to articulate and justify their preferences

GCSE pupils study the Edexcel exam board, which uses set works to explore a diverse range of genres and values performing, composing and appraising. The KS3 syllabus is backwards planned for the

GCSE syllabus so that students are introduced to each musical genre before starting GCSE. A Level pupils study the AQA exam board, which gives pupils flexibility to explore genres they are passionate

about, through equipping them with analysis skills in a mandatory western classical unit which can then be applied to genres of choice.

We are a 'through-school' and deliver weekly singing assemblies at the attached primary school, developing a love of singing alongside rudimentary musical language development and rhythmic soft skills at KS1 & 2. This has been important for encouraging applicants for our music scholarship programme who have limited external musical experience and led to some strong vocal auditions last academic year. We are looking forward to nurturing this potential from September.

Performance at KS3 - our curriculum focuses on developing proficiency in keyboard and vocal skills and developing basic skills on the ukulele and xylophone. Pupils develop ensemble skills in every performance unit of work.

Composition at KS3 – pupils do this through several mediums, including at keyboards, using Logic and through group composition tasks. They are also taught to improvise in a variety of styles including Blues, Jazz and Desi. Students compose both using notation and through DAWs.

Appraising at KS3 – pupils are equipped with musical vocabulary and theory skills to be able to articulately discuss the music they are performing and composing, and music from related genres. This prepares them well for GCSE if it is chosen as an option.

Co-Curricular Music

All pupils can take heavily subsidised instrumental lessons with our visiting tutors from THAMES, on any instrument. There are a range of ensembles that pupils can join, including:

- Symphony Orchestra
- KS3 Choir
- Senior Choir
- Pop bands
- Woodwind ensemble
- Brass ensemble
- String ensemble
- Ukulele ensemble
- Close Harmony
- Bespoke bands for different performances

We have a busy performance calendar, which includes external performances at venues such as Earth Hackney, Shoreditch Town Hall, Southwark Cathedral and the Royal Albert Hall, as well as a range of workshops delivered by external partners such as Voces8 Foundation, Tenebrae, Grand Union Orchestra, LSO, Trinity Laban Jazz Warriors and Wyatt Sinfonia. We have termly internal concerts, and pupils also perform annually in the school musical, both on stage and in the pit band.

We are committed to increasing our presence in the local community and are working to deliver assemblies in local feeder primaries and provide performances for the entrance to the Royal London Hospital. We welcomed over 200 local primary school pupils for an 'Introduction to the Orchestra' concert in May 2026 and intend to make this an annual event. Our pupils have also developed choir

leadership skills, with mentoring from the Voces8 Foundation, enabling them to run vocal workshops in the SPW Foundation school.

We also run a range of trips to see live performances and explore music venues in London, such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Barbican Backstage tour, Wicked, and ABBA Arena.

Achievements summary last academic year:

- **24 internal events** with music as a significant or central feature
- **8 external performance opportunities**, including at the Royal Albert Hall, Southwark Cathedral and pupils leading an event at Trinity Buoy Wharf
- **New 'informal recital' concert series** to give more solo opportunities to pupils, with additional stagecraft and oracy training
- **50 Y7s performing** in musical acts in our Summer Term Performing Arts showcase, up from 2 last year
- **KS3 choir doubling in numbers** from 20 to 40 regular attendees
- **New assessment scheme** which improved engagement with independent practice and confidence in use of key terms in lessons
- **Development of the music scholarship programme** with clear routes for progression while moving up the school, including further leadership opportunities, and re-purposing KS3M tutor times for meaningful musical development
- **Music leadership opportunities for pupils** including leading vocal workshops at local primary schools, events managing a show at Trinity Buoy Wharf, and leading an 'Introduction to the Orchestra' concert for 200+ primary pupils

Development points going forward

Our main aims going forward are to:

- Expand the music scholarship programme to target more local applicants, making it a true community scholarship
- Raise the standard of singing, through developing links with external partners such as Voces 8 and Tenebrae, as well as embedding singing more thoroughly throughout the KS3 curriculum
- Further improve links with other trust schools including feeder primary schools
- Increase promotion of and engagement with instrumental lessons through streamlining application process
- Increase engagement of Bangladeshi community in co-curricular activities through pupil voice initiatives
- Engagement with instrumental lessons and co-curricular opportunities should include a maximum of 50% music scholarship pupils
- Independent homework practice should become more meaningful and demonstrate genuine progress on the keyboards and build on work started in class
- Increase GCSE Music uptake through the curriculum improvements outlined
- Establish the Music A Level as a core part of the sixth form offer, improving overall engagement of sixth form students in music opportunities