



The Palmer Catholic Academy

Music Development Plan



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic years that this summary covers	2024 - 2026
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be mid-term reviewed	January 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr Chapman
Name of school leadership with responsibility for music	Mrs Mayer
Name of local music hub	Redbridge Music Hub
Name of other staff lead - Chaplain	Sister Ann-Marie IHM

This is a summary of how our Catholic Academy delivers music education to all our students across three areas

- Curriculum music
- Extra-curricular provision, and
- Musical experiences

As well as the changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help students and parents or carers understand what our academy offers and who we work with to support our students' 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 students can achieve.

Music is a practical subject in which students work as musicians, engaging in musical thinking. The process is intrinsic to the music curriculum; from it are derived the musical activities and programmes of study. Three kinds of activity require musical thinking: Listening, Composing and Performing. These elements provide the foundation for the music curriculum. Music is a universal language and as such can be enjoyed by all and accessible by all. It is the intention that students should have experience of music which encompasses a wide range of styles and cultural traditions and so lay the foundations for a lasting appreciation of music.

All students shall be given equal access and opportunity to the activities of the department and so provide stimulation and enjoyment of the subject. Students will be encouraged to develop personal skills of self-discipline, self-motivation and co-operation in practical activities and enable students to derive satisfaction by aiming for the highest possible standards. Students will develop an understanding of the expressive qualities of music and its ability to communicate feelings and ideas. Students develop an awareness and appreciation of our diverse musical heritage and the music of other cultures.

There are regular performances throughout the year in which students' and staff take part both in and outside of school. Some are large-scale concerts such as the Redbridge Choral Concert at the Royal Albert Hall and other events such as Masses or recital evenings. Music is a joyful experience. We hope that through our teaching we create a stimulating and creative environment for students and staff alike.

We offer music lessons across our curriculum Key Stage 3 and 4.

Key Stage 3 – Music is offered within our 'carousel' of Creative Arts, being DT, Drama, Food Technology and Music. Music lessons are delivered by x1 50-minute lessons per week across 20 weeks. This is the same for years 7, 8 and 9.

Here is a link to the planned curriculum for our Key Stage 3 Music curriculum

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extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://www.tpc.academy/assets/Documents/Curriculum/Subjects/Drama-Music/Music-KS3.pdf>

Students are given opportunities to learn musical instruments in lessons, focusing on the keyboard and computer-based programmes such as BandLab, giving students access to a range of electronic instruments. They work individually and with others to learn set pieces of work at a range of difficulties to suit individuals/classes/year groups. Students are also able to learn other instruments outside with 1-2-1 15-minute lessons per week with Redbridge Music Services. This is a paid service that parents/carers pay for termly. We offer paid tuition by the academy for students who are entitled to free school meals.

Key Stage 4 - Students can choose to study Music GCSE, we currently follow the Eduqas specification. We offer 10% of GCSE curriculum time allocation to each 'option' GCSE, including Music.

Here is a link to the planned curriculum for our Key Stage 4 Music curriculum

<https://www.tpc.academy/assets/Documents/Curriculum/Subjects/Drama-Music/Music-Curriculum-Map-KS4.pdf>

The link to the specification

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/by5boopf/eduqas-gcse-music-spec-from-2016-d.pdf>

At KS4 students are encouraged to choose an instrument that they will perform and be assessed on as part of their GCSE. Students are to perform at least 2 pieces, one solo and one ensemble. This is explored through group practical tasks in lessons, where they are given the opportunity to explore how to work with others, in order to gain the skills when it comes to doing their ensemble assessed performances.

To support this process, students work with teachers from Redbridge Music Services in 1-1 lessons per week to improve their skills on their chosen instrument. This can be piano, trumpet, guitar, singing, violin or drums.

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

This is about opportunities for students to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how students can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

There are a range of extra-curricular clubs on offer for students to join, such as choir and keyboard club that run weekly. Choir students are given opportunities to sing at school events, and out in the local community.

Recently students have visited a local care home to sing and spend time with the residents. Every other year we take part in the Redbridge Music Services Choral festival that takes place at the Royal Albert Hall, in which parents are able to buy tickets for, and attend.

Students are able to hire instruments from Redbridge Music Service if they are having individual lessons in order to practise and progress with their lessons as much as they can.

Students are encouraged to come into the music department and practise for any upcoming assessments or performances (KS4) during break and lunch times.

Students entitled to free school meals have the opportunity to learn an instrument with Redbridge Music Services for no extra cost.

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.

Currently planned for next academic year, is the Redbridge Music Services Choral Festival that is held at the Royal Albert Hall. Students will have the opportunity to work with other schools, primary and secondary and specialist teachers to prepare for the event. This opportunity focuses on singing, with students participating in a variety of workshops provided by RMS.

As part of our Catholic ethos, our school choir and liturgical instrumentalists perform at all mass services and liturgies. These often take place in our local church, St Cedds or on the academy site. This choir also performs a yearly Christmas Carol Concert in the academy to parents/carers and members of the local community.

We have recently established a relationship with Springfield Care Home in Newbury Park, having visited twice previously, we plan to develop this partnership further by visiting and performing again for the residents.

The Creative Arts department organises regular trips to see musical theatre. This often includes musicals such as The Lion King, Wicked and Phantom of the Opera, giving students access to shows at a discounted price and the experience of being a member of the audience at a West End show. Students entitled to free school meals are given the opportunity to attend these events at no cost.

The academy annually attends the Christmas pantomime show at the Kenneth More Theatre. All students on this trip go for free, as a reward for their positive contributions to academy life.

In the future

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

We have plans for the following developments with our Music offer during 2024-2025

- introduce the option of GCSE 'Music Production'
- KS3 curriculum review
- increased Music budget to add to/update the instruments available for student use
- deliver a cross curricular end of year music production (all years involved)
- promote the update of music lessons in KS3 (FSM focus for subsidised lessons)
- re-establish the 'school band'

Longer-term plans

- The music department is part of the 'School Rebuild Programme' so will have state-of-the-art facilities, in the not too distant future.

Mid-term Review - January 2026

This is the mid-term review to measure progress of the development plans the academy has.

- Introduce the option of GCSE 'Music Production'

Review

Music uptake at GCSE has increased to 7

Planning is still being investigated to look at potentially offering 'Music Production'. This will be a longer-term plan as we will require a music studio (rebuild)

- KS3 curriculum review

Review

The Ks3 SOW is updated, on website

- Increased Music budget to add to/update the instruments available for student use

Review

The budget for Music remains generous. We have invested in a new SMART screen and a suite of MacBooks in the music room.

We have purchased rock band instruments and are currently looking at the introduction of an orchestral project.

- Deliver a cross curricular end of year music production (all years involved)

Review

We are planning to join the Redbridge school's production of Joseph and the Technicoloured Dreamcoat

Academy production of Matilda Junior for Autumn 2026

- Promote the uptake of music lessons in KS3 (FSM focus for subsidised lessons)

Review

X26 students in total have peri music lessons across Years 7-12 (43% FSM) of which x7 are Ks3 students

Summer 2026 to launch the new initiative of Ks3 learning how to play the Trumpet (x60)

- Re-establish the 'school band'

Review

The band has been in existence for the past 18 months, growing in number to between 15 and 20 members, including staff members. The band performs at school events regularly.

Further information

To contact the academy regarding our music provision, please email office@tpc.academy

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 for support beyond the school.

Our local [music hub](#) includes useful information:

Email admin.musicservice@visionrcl.org.uk

Website <https://visionrcl.org.uk/centre/redbridge-music-service/>