

Music development plan summary: St Andrew the Apostle School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Kostas Lasithiotakis
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kath Viala
Name of local music hub	Barnet Music Arts Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

At St Andrew the Apostle, we ensure that our music curriculum is in line with the model music curriculum and is inclusive for all pupils, including those with SEND. Music is timetabled for at least 50 minutes each week for Key Stage 3, three 50 minutes lessons for Key Stage 4, and students are provided opportunities to learn to sing, compose, use music technology or play an instrument during class time. There is also whole-class ensemble teaching in Year 7.

We are partnered with BEAT (Barnet Music Arts Trust) to support curriculum music delivery, providing students with a range of opportunities to engage in whole-class ensemble teaching. For secondary school students, music qualifications including GCSE, A-levels (via centralised teaching in another institution), and graded music exams are offered, with support from specialist staff.

For our music curriculum, the progression of skills and knowledge across the Key Stage 3 years, mirroring a structured, holistic approach:

Year 7: Students explore fundamental musical elements such as rhythm, melody, harmony, and texture. They are introduced to both Western and non-Western music traditions, learning to appreciate cultural diversity. Performance focuses on basic instruments like keyboard or percussion, fostering ensemble work and solo

performance, while students also begin to grasp music theory, including notation, time signatures, and key signatures. The focus is on creativity and critical listening.

Year 8: Students build on the Year 7 foundations by exploring more advanced musical structures and forms, such as 12-Bar Blues, and delve into specific genres like classical, blues, and popular music. Composition becomes a larger focus, with students experimenting with their own musical ideas using a variety of instruments and digital music software. They deepen their understanding of harmony, chord progressions, and instrumental techniques. Students also start analysing famous works of music for structure and emotional expression, developing critical listening skills.

Year 9: By Year 9, students are preparing for possible GCSE study. The curriculum is more specialised, focusing on individual instrument proficiency and advanced theory. Students are expected to perform solo and in ensembles, with more challenging pieces from various genres and periods. Composition becomes more refined, using knowledge of musical form and technology to create sophisticated pieces. Theory expands into topics like scales, chord expansions and intervals, and students explore music history, analysing the development of musical styles and the role of technology in modern music.

Throughout KS3, regular assessments focus on practical performance, composition, and theory, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of music. The curriculum integrates digital tools, encouraging students to create and manipulate sound, aligning with modern industry practices.

Links to Key Stage 2

We note that there are huge differences in student's Key Stage 2 curriculum diet. However, students at Key Stage 2 are generally taught to use their voices and play musically. The Key Stage 3 RET Music curriculum extends these skills to encompass performance skills in voice and instruments by developing and developing technical and performance skills and in an understanding of the music. Pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations are considered at Key Stage 2. The RET Key Stage 3 curriculum builds on this by extending creative composing and more in depth, regular creating and composing. Our aim is to develop a culture and foster a love for music.

Links to KS4

All of the skills practiced at KS3, are represented, assessed and developed in Key Stage 4. KS3 is a natural progression. We offer a pathway to OCR GCSE Music specification and students who do not opt to study Music can

continue to study a musical instrument as part of our co-curricular offer.

Part B: Co-curricular music

In addition to in-class music lessons, St Andrew the Apostle offers various co-curricular music opportunities. These include:

- One-to-one, small-group, and large-group tuition for instruments and voice
- A range of ensembles which varies according to the occasion and time of year
- Instrument loans and lunch-time music clubs and after school clubs at key times throughout the year, including choir, Year 9 band and Year 11 band
- A choir, and bands, including our Year 11 GCSE Rock Band and our Year 9 rock band.
- Our Byzantine Choir, which performs at religious occasions, including Easter services at the church
- We ensure that all pupils, regardless of their background, have access to these opportunities, and tuition is subsidised for eligible students, including those eligible for pupil premium. Our students are encouraged to practice and rehearse individually or in groups, utilising the dedicated music spaces at the school.

Instrumental Lessons and Practice Rooms: Students can use practice rooms during the day, as long an adult is able to supervise.

Individual lessons are currently available for the following instruments: Piano, Drums, Guitar, Bass, Cello, Trumpet, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Violin, Viola, and Voice. To arrange lessons, please contact BEAT directly via a link on our website, under extracurricular.

Financial Assistance: Students are able to access financial assistance for music lessons, instrument hire, and BEATled ensembles through **Barnet Music Services**. Additionally, Barnet Music Services provides instrumental tuition and ensemble activities outside of school hours, usually on Saturdays.

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.

Throughout the academic year, St Andrew the Apostle organises various musical events, including:

- The Byzantine Choir performs chants that correspond to specific liturgical and ceremonial occasions, as it has done in the past, most notably during the Archbishop's visit to the school and the Groundbreaking ceremony.
- School performances during Open Evening
- Christmas carol service at Trafalgar Square in support of Noah's Arc Hospice
- Christmas Show (with a show dedicated to local primary schools)
- Byzantine choir singing lamentations during Easter church service
- Barnet schools' music festival
- St Andrew's Talent Show showcasing our main hall and facilities
- Trips to watch theatrical shows and musicals
- Masterclasses by visiting artists
- Lunchtime concerts throughout the year showcasing our new facilities

These events provide all pupils with the chance to either participate or attend as audience members. We also offer subsidies for these events to ensure all students, regardless of financial circumstances, can be involved.

- We provide dedicated spaces which showcase our new school building for students to practise during school hours, enabling them to refine their musical skills in a supportive and structured environment.

In the future

- A primary focus from this year onwards is the strategic use of artificial intelligence at GCSE level. By introducing AI tools into the curriculum at this stage, we aim to enhance assessment and feedback.
- We are also working with a local orchestra (e.g. Nonsuch Orchestra) to arrange visiting masterclasses led by industry professionals, giving students direct exposure to expert guidance across a range of instruments and disciplines.
- Furthermore, we plan to expand our program of trips to professional music performances and concerts, allowing students to experience live music at the highest levels. These trips are designed not only to inspire but also to broaden their understanding of the diverse opportunities within the musical world.

- Our regular pattern of music (and drama and dance) performances is in the calendar for 2025-26 (listed above); however, in 2026-27 we are planning to stage a whole school musical production.

Further information

Barnet Music Arts Trust - <https://beatrust.org.uk>

For school based tuition please click here: <https://beatrust.org.uk/learn-to-play/school-based-tuition/>

For Beat academy based tuition please click here: <https://beatrust.org.uk/learn-to-play/beat-academy-based-tuition/>

For Barnet Schools Music Festival please click here:

<https://beatrust.org.uk/schools/festivals/bsmf/>