

Music development plan summary: St Gabriel's RCHS

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	01/09/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	01/09/2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr M Turner
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr P Killion/Mr M Minshall
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Bury 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.

Curriculum Information and time allowance:

Information about the Music curriculum at St Gabriel's, including our curriculum map, can be found on the Curriculum area of our School website, or by following this link: <https://www.stgabrielshigh.stoccat.org.uk/curriculum/music/>

Presently, all Year 7 students at St Gabriel's receive a 1 hour-long lesson of music per week throughout the academic year. In years 8 and 9, Music is part of a carousel of subjects, and students currently receive 2x hour-long music lessons per week for one block of 8 weeks, equating to 16 hours of music per year.

At KS4, we currently offer GCSE Music as an option subject, and we follow the OCR exam specification. In year 10, students receive 5x hour-long music lessons over the

two-week timetable, whereas in year 11 this is increased to 6x hour-long lessons over the two-week timetable.

Although we do not follow the DfE Model Music Curriculum at St Gabriel's, our curriculum is inspired by it, and incorporates a great deal of the suggested listening repertoire and some of the suggested performing repertoire. Our current curriculum time allowance unfortunately does not allow sufficient time to study the MMC in its entirety.

Instrumental and vocal experience:

At St Gabriel's, the instrument that we focus on most throughout the KS3 curriculum is the piano, however our curriculum design allows for all Year 7 students to experience performing on 6 different musical instruments by the end of their first academic year, including: electric piano, glockenspiel, xylophone, chime bars, African djembe and ukulele, as well as developing their voices. In years 8 and 9, students have the opportunity to further develop their performance skills on additional instruments including: guitar, bass guitar and drum kit, as well as developing their music technology skills.

Accessibility:

Our curriculum has been designed so that music lessons are fully interactive and accessible to all. Our lessons can be adapted to accommodate all forms of special educational need, including students who experience sensory processing difficulties. Resources are adapted to suit the needs of the individual, and all students are able to participate fully in solo and group performance and composition projects.

We are lucky to be extremely well equipped, meaning that there are sufficient musical instruments for students to be able to have one each. The department is equipped with 30 MIDI enabled electric pianos, 90 ukuleles, 5 classical guitars, 5 acoustic guitars, 4 electric guitars, 3 bass guitars, 2 acoustic drum kits, 2 electric drum kits, amplifiers, microphones, headphones, 15 computers with access to *Soundation* and *Sibelius* software, a full class set of African Djembes and assorted tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

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.

Peripatetic instrumental and vocal tuition:

All students also have (optional) access to high quality peripatetic instrumental and vocal tuition within school, at an additional cost to parents. These lessons are provided by both Bury Music Service and our three private peripatetic tutors. Lessons are

available on the following instruments: vocals, classical/ acoustic/ electric/ bass guitar, piano, drum kit, strings, woodwind & brass.

Peripatetic lessons take place within school in our three dedicated practice rooms, which are equipped with electric pianos (with weighted keys), acoustic and electric drum kits, a PA system and microphone, amplifiers, electric / bass/ acoustic and classical guitars. We also have a small number of string, woodwind and brass instruments available to loan from the department. Students are required to miss a small section of their regular timetabled lessons in to attend these lessons, however the times of these lessons are rotated each week so that students do not miss too much of the same lesson.

Although the cost of these lessons varies slightly from tutor to tutor, or if taught through the music service, the average cost is £15 per 30-minute individual (1:1) lesson, or £8 per lesson if taught in a small group. Payment can be made via bank transfer/ direct debit, cheque or cash.

Scholarships are available to disadvantaged students that meet certain requirements where these lessons can be funded by school via the Pupil Premium budget. We also have a musical instrument loan scheme for students who do not have access to an instrument to practice on at home.

All of our peripatetic tutors provide the option to study toward entrance for external examinations, including instrumental, vocal and music theory grades. The awarding body of these examinations varies between tutors, however current options include: ABRSM, Trinity, RGT, LCM, LAMDA and UWL.

In school extracurricular opportunities:

In addition to our instrumental and vocal provision, St Gabriel's has an extensive extracurricular music offer with a number of different activities taking place weekly.

Our school has a long tradition of choral excellence stretching back nearly 40 years, and our 50-strong **Choir** rehearse weekly on Tuesday lunchtimes. We perform a varied repertoire of both sacred and secular music from musical theatre to classical and pop. The choir is non-auditioned, and everyone is welcome to join - staff and students alike. Many of our alumni return to perform with us for special events such as our Advent Carol service, and the choir has a real community feel. The Choir is jointly led by Mrs Rogan, our vocal tutor, and Mr Turner. The choir perform termly at various events including school Masses, Open Evening, Y11 presentation evening, the Advent Carol Service and Expressive Arts Expo. We also perform outside of school at events such as the annual *Music at the Heart of Bury* concert at Holy Cross College.

Our **Ukulele Orchestra** were a lockdown hit, and rehearse weekly on Tuesdays after school. The group has grown from small beginnings to now consisting of over 20 members in 2 classes – a beginner and an advanced class. We perform a variety of different repertoire including Folk, Pop & Rock music. Ukulele Orchestra perform live at open evening each year, as well as the Advent Carol service and our biannual Expressive Arts Expo. The Ukulele Orchestra beginner class is open to all, with free

instrument loan available. Our advanced class is made up of students who have been learning to play for a longer amount of time, or have been members since they joined us in Y7, and are capable of attempting more challenging repertoire.

Our **Music Ministry Team** are a small group of mostly experienced KS4 musicians who provide all of the music for school Masses and religious observances. We rehearse weekly on Friday lunchtimes and recently led the music for our platinum anniversary celebration Mass with Bishop John Arnold, as well as leading the music at Y7 welcome Mass, Y11 leavers Mass and patron Form Saint Masses throughout the year.

Our **Wind & Brass Ensemble** is a small group of musicians open to any student who plays any wind or brass instrument to any ability level. We rehearse on Thursday lunchtimes and recently performed at the Advent Carol service.

St Gabriel's has a long tradition of excellence in **whole-school productions**, with past shows including *Les Misérables* School Edition (2013), *Beauty and the Beast* (2015), *Sweeney Todd* (2017), *School of Rock* (2023) and *Matilda Jr.* (2025). This year we are proud to present our latest production of **Romeo & Juliet**, which will be taking place in July. Our production team includes a cast of 50 performers from across all year groups, as well as a backstage team of over 40 students. Lead and supporting roles in our school shows are auditioned, however everyone is welcome to join in the chorus, regardless of how much experience they have.

We also have a number of student-led **Rock bands** who rehearse within school, some of which perform at the local annual *Battle of the Bands* at the Met Theatre in Bury, and even the local *Glaston-Bury* festival.

Extracurricular opportunities outside of school:

Many of our students study instrumental and/or vocal lessons outside of school with private tutors in and around the local area. Some also take part in the groups and ensembles at the Lancashire Rock School. Many of our students also take part in various different groups and ensembles at Bury Music Centre, with some of our more advanced students performing with the larger GM Hub ensembles. We have students who attend musical theatre classes at local drama schools including the Carol Godby and Pauline Quirke academies, as well as students who are members of the local Army, Air and Sea Cadet force bands.

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.

Whole Academic Year 2025-26 activities:

- The St Gabriel's Community Choir will continue to rehearse weekly on Tuesday lunchtimes throughout the academic Year, and will perform live at events including Open Evening, Y7 Welcome Mass, Y11 Presentation Evening, Advent Carol Service, STOCCAT Carol Service, STOCCAT Primary Celebration Event, Y11 Leavers Mass, Expressive Arts Expo and the Music at the Heart of Bury Concert at Holy Cross College.
- The St Gabriel's Ukulele Orchestra will continue to rehearse weekly on Tuesdays after school and will perform live at school events including Open Evening and the Advent Carol Service.
- The St Gabriel's Wind and Brass Ensemble will continue to rehearse weekly on Thursday lunchtimes throughout the academic year and will perform live at school events including the Advent Carol Service and Expressive Arts Expo.
- The St Gabriel's Music Ministry Team will continue to rehearse on Friday lunchtimes throughout the academic year 2025-26 to provide Music for school Masses and religious observances including Y7 Welcome Mass, Advent Carol Service, Y11 Leavers Mass, Y8 & 9 Form Saint Masses & Y10 Mass.

Autumn Term:

- Our autumn term performances will include Open Evening, Y11 Presentation Evening, Advent Carol Service and STOCCAT Carol Service.
- An open Theatre trip will take place to see the touring production of Matilda the Musical at the Bradford Alhambra on 19th November.
- We will be auditioning and casting our 2025-26 production of Romeo & Juliet. Rehearsals for this will take place on Mondays after school, Wednesday lunchtimes and Fridays after school, and will continue throughout spring and summer term.

Spring Term:

- Our spring term performances will include the STOCCAT Primary Schools Celebration Event.
- A KS4 Performing Arts trip will take place to see the touring production of *The Woman in Black* at the Musical at the Bradford Alhambra.
- KS4 Performing Arts students will be attending the 2026 Holy Cross College Production of *Les Misérables* on the 25th March as members of the audience.

Summer Term:

- Our Summer Term Performances will include Y11 Leavers Mass, *Romeo & Juliet*, Expressive Arts Expo and Music at the Heart of Bury.

In the future

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

At present, there are no plans to increase the amount of curriculum time available to Music at St Gabriel's. Any decisions around this will be made at a trust level.

- St Gabriel's is committed to providing continued access to a wide variety of instrumental and vocal tuition within school including: vocals, classical/ acoustic/ electric/ bass guitar, piano, drum kit, strings, woodwind & brass.
- The St Gabriel's Community Choir will continue to rehearse and perform live at events both inside and outside of school throughout the academic year 2026-27, including: Open Evening, Y7 Welcome Mass, Y11 Presentation Evening, Advent Carol Service, Y11 Leavers Mass and The *Music at the Heart of Bury* Concert at Holy Cross College.
- The St Gabriel's Ukulele Orchestra will continue to rehearse and perform live at school events throughout the academic year 2026-27, including: Open Evening, Advent Carol Service and Expo 2026.
- The St Gabriel's Wind & Brass Ensemble will continue to rehearse and perform live at school events throughout the academic year 2026-27, including Open Evening and the Advent Carol Service
- The St Gabriel's Music Ministry Team will continue to provide Music for school Masses and religious observances throughout the academic year 2026-27, including Y7 Welcome Mass, Advent Carol Service, Y11 Leavers Mass, Y8 & 9 Form Saint Masses & Y10 Mass.
- Our practice rooms will continue to be made available for individual and group rehearsals before school, at breaktimes, at lunchtimes and after school throughout the year, with priority given to peripatetic instrumental lessons and KS4 GCSE Musicians in the first instance.
- Autumn Term Performances will include: Open Evening, Y11 Presentation Evening and Advent Carol Service.
- Spring Term Performances will include:
- Summer Term Performances will include: Whole School Production 2027 and *Music at the Heart of Bury* 2027.
- KS4 music students will be attending the Hallé orchestra's Set Works Concert *the Orchestra Through the Ages* 2027.
- KS4 Music and Drama students will be attending the Holy Cross College Production 2027

Further information (optional)

St Gabriel's RC High School is part of the St Theresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust (STOCCAT). You can find more information at the following website:

<https://www.stoccat.org.uk/>

St Gabriel's RC High School falls within the Greater Manchester Music Hub. You can find more information at the following website:

<https://gmmusicclub.co.uk/>

St Gabriel's RC High School is partnered with Bury Music Service for in-school peripatetic instrumental tuition. You can find more information at the following website:

<https://burymusic.co.uk/>

Our private Guitar tuition is provided by Mr L. Revill. You can find more information at the following website:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/LR-Guitar-Tuition/100057437710362/>

Our private Piano tuition is provided by Mr A. Thomas LCM, MISM. You can find more information at the following website:

<https://www.facebook.com/AshleyThomasMusicLessons/>

Our private Vocal tuition is provided by Mrs L. Rogan BMus, PGDip. You can find more information at the following website:

<http://www.louiserogan.com/>

Other local music tuition providers include:

<https://www.rimmersmusic.co.uk/>

<https://www.harmonyentertainment.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SchoolOfRockLancashire/>