

Music development plan summary: Mount St Joseph Catholic School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	10 th October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr D Sanders
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss G Reynolds
Name of local music hub	Bolton Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' music education.

Mount St Joseph Catholic School are very proud to have been awarded the Music mark award. This award recognises the value that we, as a community, put on music and music education. We work closely with the Bolton Music Service to deliver a variety of lessons and ensembles, offering students the opportunity to perform, compose and experience music. By following the ABRSM curriculum and grading programme we strive to ensure that all students, no matter what background, have the chance to learn and instrument.

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.

The Mount St Joseph music curriculum consists of one lesson per week for years 7 and 8 throughout the year, two 50-minute lessons per week over one full term for year 9 and, should students opt for music, three 50-minute lessons over the entire year for years 10 and 11.

Every half term students will study the three main components of music: Performance, Composition and Listening. These three disciplines are studied through a variety of different mediums, instruments and genres.

Full details of the music curriculum can be found on our school website by following this link:

[MSJ Music Curriculum](#)

The music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) and adapted for our context, considering student voice and the resources available to us in school.

There are many extracurricular opportunities within school to learn an instrument and perform. Clubs available to students are the school band, choir, specific instrument lessons and lunch time clubs. We also regularly hold concerts and drama performances at least once a term.

Mount St Joseph are in partnership with both the Bolton and Darwen Music Hub and the STOC Multi Academy Trust to ensure that students have access to individual instrument tuition and ensemble tuition over a variety of instruments and groups.

At Mount St Joseph we study the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice. This award gives students the opportunity to study a more practical specification – ensuring students can learn music musically – focussing on instrument skill and reflection, as well as the theoretical concepts of music.

Part B: Co-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.

Extra-curricular music

Mount St Joseph offers some provision for instrumental lessons for students at Key Stage 4 who have opted for music.

Ensembles:

Senior Choir (all years)

Junior Choir (Years 7 and 8 only)

Modern Pop Band (all years)

Instrument tuition clubs:

Guitar club

Piano Club

Vocal Club

DJ and Turntable Club

Individual instrument tuition with the music service:

Voice

Guitar and Bass

Piano

Drums

Students are encouraged to learn an instrument outside of school and the possibility to loan instruments from school is available.

There are various practice rooms around school that are bookable through the head of creative arts, these are available during all breaks, lunch times and after school. .

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.

Across the year there are multiple performances in assemblies, concerts, class performances and whole school events such as open evening, welcome evening and awards evening. The school choir and modern pop band are often called upon to perform at various events throughout the year. There are many opportunities to perform or be part of an audience throughout the academic calendar.

There are opportunities to visit local sixth form colleges both for open evenings and to experience drama, concert and dance showcases. We have close connections with Pendleton, Runshaw and Wigan and Leigh college where we often visit to see their performances.

At Mount St Joseph we are proud to offer students the opportunity to experience professional concerts with regular visits to the Bridgewater Hall and other local venues to see theatrical, classical and popular music performances.

In the future

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

Going forward, as a school, we would like to increase the number of performances to the public. We are looking to visit local public spaces to showcase our talents.

The music department would like to increase the number of instruments, lessons and clubs that are on offer to allow students to experience and learn the music they love, while offering amazing musical experiences both in and out of school.

Further information (optional)

Mount St Joseph Catholic School are part of the St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust – their website can be found at <https://www.stoccat.org.uk/>

We also work closely with the Bolton Music Service – their strategic aims, amongst other things, can be found on the link below.

[Strategic aims | Bolton Music Service](#)