

Music development plan summary: Manchester Communication Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Dylan Daniel
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Susie Fraser
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Hub
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 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.

Our music curriculum can be found on our website:

<https://www.manchestercommunicationacademy.com/music>

Here you will find the Curriculum journey and the curriculum intents for key stage 3.

Our key stage 3 curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum in that we ensure that students have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in listening, singing, composing and performance. Students also learn notation skills throughout key stage 3.

At key stage, students experience 25 hours of music each year, this is part of a creative and performing arts curriculum. Included in their music curriculum offer, all students have access to one to one or small group tuition in a range of instruments including drums, guitar and vocals. This is offered for free and is available to all students. Students also develop their keyboard skills throughout their music lessons.

As part of the key stage 3 music curriculum, students experience performance as a solo musician or as part of a group.

At key stage 4, it is possible for students to study GCSE Music, BTEC in Music, London College of Music Level 3 qualifications in Singing and Trinity College London's Level 3 qualifications in Music performance.

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.

Manchester Communication Academy employs three peripatetic members of staff who offer one to one and small group tuition to students in drums, guitar and vocals. Students can access this as part of their extended schools offer, Students also have the opportunity to participate in a range of clubs such as keyboard club and drumming club. Tutors facilitate opportunities for students to collaborate as bands or groups and they are supported to develop these skills.

Despite their option choices at key stage 4, students can be invited to receive additional tuition in drums, guitar or vocal so that they can achieve the London College of Music or Trinity College London music performance qualifications.

The school has a suite of facilities that allow students to rehearse and practice. These include four rehearsal rooms and a recording studio.

All instruments are available to students free of charge.

Each year, the school organises a number of events where students are supported to perform and they receive tuition and guidance in preparation for these events. These events are outlined below.

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.

Each year, the music department organises and hosts a variety of musical events that celebrate and encourage our students to participate in musical performance. These include:

Young Singer of the Year

The Promising Singer Shield

Developing Singer of the Year

Singer of the Year

Performing Arts Showcase

Instrumental Showcase

All of these events are free for parents, families and friends to attend.

In the future

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

- The music department continue to develop the music curriculum at key stage to ensure that students develop their musicianship as well as their appreciation for musical traditions and genres.
- The music department are keen to add to the music opportunities that are available to students outside the curriculum. This includes the introduction of a Songwriter Awards and a Piano Platform event.