

Music development plan summary: Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Richard Ward
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mark Rogers
Name of local music hub	Stoke City 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 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.

At Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent we have a music curriculum based on the National curriculum. Key aspects of our curriculum are informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021).

The planned curriculum is accessible by all. We use inclusive questioning strategies, scaffolding, a variety of instrumental choice and groupings are decided upon based on students strength and social needs and ability. Students with SEN needs can access videos that allow students to work at their own pace and catch up on missed work. The department gives feedback weekly to the SEN department. The department completes Pupil passports which are an integral part of planning and delivery. This allows an experience for all students.

We cater for students with disabilities to be able to play instruments in a way most comfortable for them. Students take on a variety of different roles within the lesson which allows all students to participate fully and successfully to a variety of different levels.

Our music curriculum is delivered fortnightly for KS3. There are some aspects of the model music curriculum that cannot be delivered effectively on a fortnightly timetable. We have one teacher of music at the Academy who is head of department.

In music pupils have numerous opportunities to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time, through whole-class ensemble teaching and group work. The primary focus on voice, percussion, keyboard, guitar, and production. For example in the African drumming module students learn how to sing and play African drums, in Rock Band students sing, play guitar, keyboard and drumkit. Students learn how to compose for Imedia using music technology.

At the Co-op Stoke we believe in delivering the curriculum through authentic practice. Student experience of a new music and culture should be taught in the mother tongue and created and performed in the same way it is done in the country of origin. For example, when students learn traditional West African drumming students will be in a drum circle, when learning Gamelan from Indonesia instruments will be organised in straight lines on the floor, students sit and perform using the same methods and practices.

The music department at the Co-op Stoke has enhanced student's experience of the music curriculum working collaboratively and in partnership with local colleges, music hubs and charities including: Stoke City Sixth College, Keele University, Abram Wilson Foundation, MiddlePort Matters, Make Some Noise and the Co-op Trust.

KS4 Music Course Content:

At KS4 we offer the BTEC Tech Award in Music. This vocational course is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, students can explore the sector while:

- developing skills, including teamwork, leadership and communication
- developing and presenting music to a brief
- analysing, evaluating and enhancing their learning.

The course is made up of three components. Two are internally assessed components, and one is externally assessed:

Component one: Exploring the Music Industry

Component two: Music skills development

Component three: Responding to a music brief

Careers Information:

With a BTEC Tech Award in Music, students are able to explore, challenge and realise their potential. During the course, students can see whether the industry is one they want to be in, where they could go, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next steps. After completing the course, your students can continue on to further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships. What's more, the transferable skills your students master during their studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support their progress.

- **Curriculum Implementation**

Within our curriculum, we are committed to developing a personalised learning experience. Students are encouraged to take roles and responsibilities within all music lessons and school clubs;

As **performers**, students will develop and demonstrate key practical rehearsal and performance skills and learn how to follow direction from the musical director.

As **composers**, students will develop the fundamental skills associated with musical literacy and creativity, leading to the acquisition of a range of advanced skills and techniques which students can select, apply and adapt in different musical contexts.

As a **musical directors**, our curriculum will enhance students' cognitive abilities and leadership skills through the opportunity to manage groups in rehearsal and performance, self-evaluating and directing to refine and improve work.

As a **music journalist**, students will listen to music and analyse musical elements, devices and conventions that make the music sound the way it does. Students will listen to compositions and performances with a critical ear to review and evaluate, and suggest ways to improve.

As a **music tutor**, students will be supported to reflect upon and understand how they learn best, develop independent learning skills, and shown how to use this knowledge to improve further and help others.

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.

Outside lesson time we offer small-group music tuition with Stoke City Music Service for vocals, drums, keyboard, guitar, and strings. This costs £45 per term, payable via parent pay. We provide free tuition for looked after students, PP students and those on a EHCP.

Outside of lesson time we run weekly music clubs:

Academy Band - an instrumental ensemble

Choir - a vocal ensemble

Musical Theatre Club - vocal and performance ensemble who works towards putting on productions.

Rehearsal rooms open at break times (3 times a week) to allow students to rehearse.

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.

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Perform in ensembles at SASCAL concerts
- Join community-led orchestra organised by Staffordshire HUB at the Bridge Centre
- Have the opportunity to record their performances and create music videos
- Students have the opportunity to perform in school to peers, parents and visitors at OAP parties, open evenings, community evenings, arts evenings, remembrance services, school shows.
- Students have the opportunity to take school trips to perform in school intercity concerts and competitions such as:
 - SASCAL concerts, usual held at the Victoria Hall, Hanley
 - Inter School competitions such as Stoke's Gotta Sing competition
 - Intercity led ticketed events such as Music Share at Lichfield Cathedral
- Coop Trust 'Young Musician of the Year' competition.

In the future

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

- Our academy development plan for music has highlighted that we want to continue to develop the curriculum that our students experience. Although this is strong and is considered best practice, the team are currently exploring music pedagogy in further depth, researching the best/most effective musical pedagogies.
- With our scheme in place for students to access free instrumental and vocal tuition, the academy is looking at how we can further widen the range of instruments on offer to provide an even better musical provision.

Further information (optional)

Music Instrumental tuition provided by Stoke City Music Service

<https://stokecms.org.uk>

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 to for support beyond the school.

[National Plan for Music Education](#)