



## Music development plan summary: **GATEACRE SCHOOL**

### Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 -2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mark Newns
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sophie Tracey
Name of local music hub	Resonate
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.

Details regarding the school music curriculum can be found here: [LINK TO SUMMARY ON WEBSITE](#). Students are allocated one 50-minute lesson Music per week at KS3, three for GCSE and six for A level.

Music at KS3 offers our students a wide range of different types of music from different eras, places and genres, and is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021).

Our students have repeated opportunities to develop guitar, keyboard and drumming skills in whole-class lessons. Through these practical activities they develop their ability to read music notations.

Students compose music on a DAW (Digital Audio Workspace) They also listen and analyse a variety of music.

At KS3, students work through our own bespoke graded booklets on guitar and keyboard, receiving certificates on completion.

We offer OCR GCSE Music at KS4.

At KS5 students can opt for AQA A Level Music and/or BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music Technology (Sound Engineering). Many choose both.

Instrumental lessons are **free** for exam students and if appropriate, graded music exams can be studied with instrumental tutors.

## Part B: Extra-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.

Gatacre Music Department has eight visiting peripatetic tutors, who offer tuition on the following instruments:

- Violin
- Flute; Clarinet; Saxophone
- Brass
- Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Piano
- Voice

- Drum Kit

This tuition is usually one-to-one (although may be in twos or threes at beginner level) and is **heavily subsidised** by the school, at a rate of £50 per term or £20 per term for Pupil Premium students. If they do not have their own instrument, students will be loaned a department instrument that they are encouraged to practise at home.

GCSE and A level exam students enjoy individual free lessons of either 20 or 30 minutes.

The department has numerous practice rooms and spaces where students regularly practise. They are open before and after school, and at breaks and lunchtimes.

All students, regardless of standard, are encouraged to join school musical ensembles as an enjoyable way to develop their playing ability. Music ensembles sometimes change depending on the needs of current students. Currently, Gateacre Music Department's ensemble offer is below. We are hoping to restart a jazz band in the next year.

- Orchestra/Band (open to instrumentalists of any standard)
- String Group (open to string players of any standard)
- Pop Voices (open to all)
- Samba Band (open to all)
- African drumming group (open to all)
- Keyboard club (open to all)
- Guitar Club (open to all)

These ensembles form the basis of our annual Summer and Christmas concerts. Other items in these concerts include solo items and other ensembles. Students are strongly encouraged to form their own bands, and the department is open before and after school, and at breaks and lunchtimes in order to facilitate this. There is also a staff band which rehearses regularly and performs alongside our students in concerts.

Gateacre Music Department is active in the local community. We have links with a local community choir who rehearse in the department and have also performed at some of our concerts. In addition, we have provided drummers and bassists for another local community choir who are keen to continue working with us. Possible future collaborations include providing players and singers for the group and even having our Pop Voices ensemble and soloists from the school perform at their concerts.

## 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.

Musical experiences planned for the forthcoming academic year include:

### **Performance opportunities**

- Annual Summer Concert
- Annual Christmas Concert
- Annual Whole-school Musical production
- Industry Day/Bands Night – a joint collaboration with our industry friends *ADLIB* Audio who spend a day with our Music Tech students setting up and deliver professional sound and lighting for an evening Bands Night
- *Friday Rocks* – an informal bands night which gives experience to bands and also to our BTEC Music Tech students who help to deliver the sound.
- Termly Monday Tea-time concerts
- Occasional music, for example at Art exhibition or Open Evenings
- Community performances, for example Pop Voices singing Christmas music for a local pensioners group.

### **Career focus**

- Industry Day/Bands Night (see above) is an opportunity to work with industry professionals. Some students who have impressed on previous events have gone on to have work experience and subsequent employment at *ADLIB* Audio
- Sound City Industry Day – a day of workshops and seminars run by industry professionals
- Talk(s)/Q&A led by ex-students about their experiences of working at *ADLIB* Audio

### **Musical experiences**

- Trip(s) to the Philharmonic Hall to see the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

The vast majority of musical performance opportunities are open to all students, indeed, we actively encourage participation.

## **In the future**

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

In the future, the department will:

- strive to develop links with local feeder primary schools to promote understanding of how beneficial learning a musical instrument is for cognitive and social development. It will investigate how it can offer performance

opportunities for students so that they make a better musical transition between Primary and Secondary education (this transition is often the time when students give up learning their musical instrument)

- continue to develop its procedures for Year 7 transition, encouraging existing players to continue with their instrument and allowing new instrumentalists to start as soon as possible
- look at how access to professional musical performances can be offered more widely to students at KS3 as well as exam students.
- explore career links (e.g. recording studio visits) other than *ADLIB* Audio.