

# Music development plan summary: Co-op Academy Walkden

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Young
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kate Walker
Name of local music hub	Music and Performing Arts Salford
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.

### Music Curriculum Statement

The KS3 Music curriculum at Co-op Academy Walkden fully encompasses the KS3 National Curriculum's aims, attainment targets and subject content. Further than this, it also draws from / references the Model Music Curriculum for Years 7 to 9. Further details of the KS3 Music Curriculum long term plans and the overall music learning journey are published on the academy website.

Music at KS3 is delivered to all students in years 7 to 9, through hourly timetabled lessons each week. This is further supplemented by an extensive instrumental tuition offer which also takes place throughout the core academy day.

Throughout KS3, students take part in whole class singing, whole class and small group instrumental practice (eg. keyboards / percussion / ukulele) as well as being

exposed to a range of musical genres & time periods and opportunities to develop their listening, composing and evaluative skills. Musical understanding and key knowledge is supported by the development of musical vocabulary throughout the key stage. The component aspects of music (eg. rhythm, pitch, melody, form, structure, harmony, tonality & expression etc.) are carefully sequenced and mapped throughout the key stage, as are opportunities for listening, performing, composing, to build on skills and knowledge and secure progression. Students are regularly assessed in these three core components.

At KS4, Music is delivered as an optional subject. At Co-op Academy Walkden we offer AQA GCSE Music. It is allocated 6 hours per fortnight. Students who opt for GCSE Music are offered subsidised instrumental lessons in their specialist instrument. For students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, lessons are fully funded. Students have access to the Music facilities during social times to facilitate practice and developing their composition as well as after school revision classes to ensure all students have the tools to succeed in GCSE Music.

Music is taught fully inclusively at both key stages, and in mixed ability groups. There is equal access to music lessons for all students regardless of demographic, SEND status, disadvantage or any other characteristic. Students with additional needs are supported to access the subject and succeed in line with their SEND pupil passports and the music curriculum has been carefully designed and 'poverty-proofed' to ensure that no students are disadvantaged as a result of any potential socio-economic challenges.

Students at both key stages use and develop their music technology skills. Students at KS3 use online music technology platforms such as BandLab and Soundtrap as well as applications such as Garage Band in order to support with their composition skills and to develop their understanding of music technology tools themselves (eg. sequencing, sampling, mixing, quantising, effects etc). At key stage 4, students further develop these skills by using applications such as Sibelius and Logic Pro.

There is a CEIAG thread that runs through our music curriculum which makes links with career opportunities and industry-specific elements throughout the learning journey. These curriculum CEIAG links are further developed by enrichment opportunities for students (eg. visiting bands & performers, trips to live performance venues etc).

The academy's KS3 Music curriculum overview can be found via [this link](#).

Details of the KS4 Music courses available to students can be found via [this link](#).

### **Subject Specialists**

Music is taught by a core team of specialists and supported by additional peripatetic staff and tutors. Leadership of Music is formalised through a Head of Subject and a Head of Faculty, and other staff have specific leadership responsibilities for other

aspects such as singing development. Our Heads of Subject are part of a network of Music Leads across our Trust and this group is also supported by our Trust's Music SLE. There are opportunities for our music specialists to lead on regional and Trust-wide projects as well as to engage in their own CPD.

## 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.

In addition to core timetabled music lessons, the academy offers a range of 1:1 instrumental and vocal tuition opportunities. These include :

- vocal / singing
- piano / keyboard lessons
- guitar and bass guitar lessons
- string (violin / cello) lessons
- drum lessons
- woodwind lessons
- DJing/music production lessons

The academy works in partnership with Music and Performing Arts Salford (MAPAS) and independent tutors to provide this suite of music tuition.

All students that wish to, are able to access these lessons.

Students eligible for the pupil premium are never required to pay for instrumental / vocal lessons.

As well as this suite of instrumental / vocal lessons, the academy offers the following ensemble opportunities at no cost to students [delete/add as applicable] :

- rock band(s)
- choir(s)
- DJing/production club
- steel pan group
- annual school production

This range of ensemble opportunities is also extended as students are encouraged to join the community band which is hosted at the academy each week. This gives students the chance to play alongside more experienced musicians, develop their own musical skills and extend their repertoire.

As well as school-based, local ensemble groups, our Trust has set up a Greater Manchester Big Band which provides students with an opportunity to come together across the region each week to rehearse and perform together.

Students that do not have their own instrument are provided/loaned an instrument by the academy or our partner music providers.

The academy hosts the local Music Hub's Music Centre which allows students to further develop their skills outside of school hours.

Also, students regularly undertake their own informal solo and ensemble practice by accessing the facilities in the music department before school, during social times and after school each day. This results in student-led bands and vocalists emerging organically which are then further supported by music staff.

We also introduce other music-making, high impact experiences such as the work with the Abram Wilson Foundation which has included live performances on site from professional musicians, instrumental and vocal workshops with the same musicians and public performances at professional music venues.

## **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.

There are many other musical experiences and encounters which take place throughout the year, and which either expose students to music or give them direct participation in music.

There are opportunities for students to perform at events such as the Christmas Concert and /or Showcase Evenings each year. These events are well attended by other students who enjoy experiencing live music.

The academy stages a full-scale musical theatre production each year which provides students with opportunities to sing (both solo and as part of an ensemble).

Instrumentalists play in the band/orchestra for school shows, often alongside music teachers or other experienced players and this provides an excellent experience for them to develop their performance skills in a different way.

Beyond this, our Trust organises a Greater Manchester regional Trust production (eg. staging Les Miserables in 2023) so that students from our academy can rehearse and perform with students from other academies on large-scale and ambitious projects.

Another example of high quality extended musical opportunity is our Trust's Young Musician of the Year competition which included students from every academy across all year groups. This provided students with the chance to perform at a range of professional music venues, culminating in a grand final at Home Theater in

Manchester. Finalists from this competition also won tickets to a live musical concert of their choice.

The academy runs theatre trips each year and students are able to experience live musical theatre and live performance, subsidised or fully funded by the academy.

This year, we have also run a joint Science/Music project working with partners from Oxford University and Royal Northern College of Music. Our students explored the topic of immunology and virology with scientists from Oxford through music composition working alongside staff and students from RNCM. They had their original compositions performed at a live event by RNCM students and also took part in ensemble performances themselves on stage in the concert hall at RNCM.

## In the future

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

Students at Co-op Academy Walkden will be given the opportunity to audition and take part in future Trust Productions as well as plans for more Trust wide ensembles.

There are further opportunities for students to develop their musicianship through planned events such as the joint history / music immersion day at Chethams School of Music as well as the next phase of the Abram Wilson project (as per the Trust's three year plan).

Going forward we endeavour to work more within the community for example performing at local care homes at Christmas and providing musicians for internal Coffee Mornings.

There are further plans to increase the uptake of students playing Orchestral Instruments where we are starting to see an industry skills shortage with projects such as a Year 7 Brass Project. This will also include work with local primary schools to support transition to high school.

For September 2024, Co-op Academy Walkden plans to embed BandLab Education into the curriculum to further develop students composition skills as well as the use of Music Technology within the curriculum.

Uptake at KS4 for September 2024 has been exceptional and as a department we plan to continue to invest both time and finances to continue on this trajectory.

## Further information (optional)

Co-op Academy Walkden works in partnership with MAPAS to provide instrumental tuition in school. MAPAS also run a wide range of extra curricular ensembles at their weekly Arts Centre which is held locally and some ensembles are run out of Co-op Academy Walkden. Arts Centre provides students with opportunities to develop their musicianship and perform at concerts across the city and at large scale venues including The Lowry Theatre. MAPAS provides students with the opportunity to sit ABRSM, Trinity and Rock School examinations. Students who attend Arts Centre also have the opportunity to participate in tours such as 'School About' where they visit primary schools across Salford to perform in the final week of the summer term.

We also work with an independent DJing/Music Production teacher who has provided us with links to industry but also the British Institute of Modern Music.

We are continually forming links with Post 16 Providers including Future Skills, Salford College, Xaverian College, Winstanley College. As well as Post 18 providers including the British Institute of Modern Music and the Royal Northern College of Music.

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 for support beyond the school.