



Music Department

Departmental overview

At Saint Cecilia's, Music is for all. It is a language, an art form, a science, a philosophy, a study of our own and other cultures, responding to the past and informing the present. We aim to develop every pupil's response to the power and the art of music. Music can enrich, change lives, develop character, and provide unique opportunities. We encourage pupils to explore their own individual creativity and artistic expression, leading to academic excellence and musical brilliance for all.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is highly innovative, up-to-date and designed to cover all styles of music to engage all pupils in musical learning. All pupils have the chance to learn keyboard skills and other instrumental skills in class. At Key Stage 4, we offer Music GCSE and at Key Stage 5, we offer Music A Level and Music Technology BTEC National Foundation Diploma.

Year 7:

Pupils develop their skills in the three main assessment areas, performing, listening and composing. The lessons integrate these skills so that pupils can balance and apply their learning across all the areas, adding to their knowledge and understanding. Topics include: singing, the elements of music, keyboard skills, structure in music and Japanese and Indonesian music.

Pupils listen to a variety of examples from different genres and periods, and perform pieces from notation and memory, individually and in groups, using their own instrument where appropriate. Pupils compose and perform to specific criteria, based on what they have learned, with extension work encouraging the development of pupils' own originality.

Year 8:

Pupils progress and develop their skills in the three main assessment areas, performing, listening and composing. Units cover between 6-12 lessons and include an assessment in a specific skill area. The units aim to develop musical knowledge and understanding through: Blues and Gospel, Programmatic Music, Music in the Media and Reggae.

Pupils listen to a variety of examples from the style or genre and perform pieces from notation and memory, individually and in groups, using their own instrument where appropriate. Pupils also make extensive use of sophisticated ICT software. They compose and perform to specific criteria, based on what they have learned from the styles, genres and traditions.

Year 9:

Pupils extend and develop their skills in the three main assessment areas, performing, listening and composing and build on existing knowledge and proficiencies. Units cover between 6-12 lessons and include an assessment in a specific skill area. The units aim to develop musical knowledge and understanding through: ground bass, 20th century pop music, 'Musical Futures' ensemble work, film music and fusion music.

Pupils listen to a variety of examples from the style or genre and perform pieces from notation and

from memory, individually and in groups, using their own specialist instrument where appropriate. Pupils also make extensive use of sophisticated ICT software. They compose and perform to specific criteria, based on what they have learned from the styles, genres and traditions, with opportunities to expand their own creativity and develop their own musical style.

Year 10:

Pupils start to study the Eduqas GCSE course, revising and developing the skills learnt in Key Stage 3, and building upon their knowledge of music. Pupils develop their instrumental skills, through performance workshops and performances.

Pupils practise reading and writing using traditional music notation and other forms of notation. The course covers basic theory and aural skills. During the course, pupils study areas of study: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music. During the year, pupils complete a composition and practice performance assessments as part of their coursework and begin preparation for an ensemble performance. The composition is a free composition. The solo performance can be performed on the pupil's choice of instrument.

Year 11:

Pupils continue to study the GCSE course, revising and developing the skills learnt in Year 10, and building upon their knowledge of music. Pupils revise the four areas of study. In the first half term, pupils should have completed a solo performance and one free composition and are required to complete an ensemble performance and a further composition which is set to a brief given by the exam board and refine all coursework.

In the spring term, they finally revise and complete a listening paper in the summer that covers all the areas of study in the summer examination.

A Level Music (Years 12 and 13) Eduqas (WJEC)

In Year 12, on the Eduqas Music A Level course, students learn how to develop their own compositional style, performing skills and their understanding of music. There are three areas of study:

- **Performing:** students perform some solo and/or ensemble items, carefully selected to display a variety of styles and technical skills. Students are required to perform to an examiner during March/April in Year 13, but have several performance assessments and events during the course.
- **Composing:** students develop their composition skills and create two pieces. One in response to a choice of briefs set by Eduqas and one free composition. Students also learn how to create their own recording and score.
- **Listening and Appraising:** Students develop their musical understanding through the study of the symphony from 1750-1900, into 20th Century Music and Musical Theatre. They focus on Haydn's London Symphony as a detailed set work and also look at the development of the symphony and Musical Theatre in the 20th Century. Students learn about the musical features of the pieces and stylistic traits as well as the cultural and historical background. This is assessed through an exam which will include listening, short answers and some short essay questions.
- In Year 13, students develop a deeper understanding of music through the study of set works and also further develop their own compositional style and performing skills. Like in Year 12, the A Level course is made up of three components and extends the learning from Year 12.
- **Extended Performance or Performance:** Students perform an extended program of carefully selected pieces to create a balanced performance. Students are required to perform a recital of 12-15 minutes. Lessons on performing techniques, performance practice and programming help prepare the students for this.
- **Composing or Extended Composing:** Students develop their composition skills to create. Two 3–

5 minute pieces in response to a choice of briefs set by Eduqas. Some students may opt to complete a further contrasting composition instead of the extended performance (and so perform a shorter recital for the performing component).

- Listening and Appraising: Students develop their musical understanding through extending their knowledge of Haydn and Mendelssohn and the development of the symphony in the 19th Century. Students also study set works of composers in the Twentieth Century – Debussy and Poulenc. Musical Theatre is examined in greater depth and more composers are studied. This unit will be assessed through an exam; this will include a listening section of aural analysis questions, short essay questions and one extended essay questions.

BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Music Technology Level 3 (Years 12 and 13) Pearson

In Music Technology, students study seven units for the National Foundation Diploma. In Year 12, the students complete Unit 3, 15, 7 and begin preparation for Unit 5. In Year 13, the students complete Unit 5, 2, 8 and 10. Students will gain the skills to use computers for music creation, develop recording techniques in the 24-track studio, and develop a thorough understanding of the music industry. They will also develop research skills, create music and undertake project work.

- Unit 3 – Music and Sound for Media
- Unit 17 – Music Technology and Musicianship
- Unit 7 – Music Technology Enterprise Opportunities
- Unit 5 – Music Technology in Context
- Unit 2 – Studio Recording Techniques
- Unit 8 – Creative Synthesis and Sampling
- Unit 10 – Remixing and Reworking

Units 7 and 5 are externally assessed via controlled tasks and assessments in January and May in Year 13. The other units are internally assessed through assignments during the course.