

Music Development Plan summary: The Trinity Catholic School (2025/26)

Overview

| Detail | Information |
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| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025/26 |
| Date this summary was published | January 2026 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | September 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Mr M Durnell |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Mr D Kelly |
| Name of local music hub | Nottingham Music Hub |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | |

This summary outlines how music is delivered at The Trinity Catholic School across **curriculum music, co-curricular provision, and musical experiences**, and how we continue to develop high-quality, inclusive music education for all pupils.

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 The Trinity Catholic School, music plays a vital role in students' intellectual, emotional and spiritual development. Our curriculum is guided by the Model Music Curriculum (2021) and is designed to ensure that all students experience music as performers, listeners and creators.

Curriculum time and structure

All students study music throughout Key Stage 3:

- **Year 7:** 2 hours per week
- **Year 8:** 1.5 hours per week
- **Year 9:** 1 hour per week

This sustained curriculum time enables students to build musical knowledge progressively and securely.

Orchestra

Playing a musical instrument is central to our curriculum. All KS3 students learn to play an instrument as part of curriculum lessons, including violin, ukulele, recorder and piano. Alongside this, students experience a wider range of instruments — including woodwind, brass, tuned percussion and strings — ensuring breadth and inclusivity.

A key feature of our curriculum is the orchestra lessons. This is launched in Year 7, where the entire cohort participates in workshops led by specialist staff and visiting musicians. Students rotate through instrumental experiences and ensemble activities, culminating in a massed performance, reinforcing musical collaboration, confidence and community. Students then learn to play an orchestral instrument in small groups in Year 7, and as part of an ensemble in Year 8.

Singing

We are actively working towards embedding singing across all KS3 curriculum units. Singing is already a feature of school life through:

- Whole-school singing in assemblies, masses and liturgies
- An extra-curricular choir, open to all students
- Vocal workshops and enrichment opportunities

Inclusion and SEND

Our curriculum is inclusive by design. Students with SEND are supported through:

- The use of music technology, including sequencers and digital audio workstations
- Scaffolded performance approaches, where students contribute different musical layers of varying difficulty to whole-class and ensemble performances

This ensures all students can participate meaningfully and experience success as musicians.

Disadvantage and access

To remove financial barriers, students eligible for Pupil Premium are offered free instrumental lessons on orchestral instruments, alongside access to school instruments and subsidised enrichment opportunities.

Qualifications and progression

At Key Stage 4, students follow the OCR GCSE Music specification, while at Key Stage 5 students study AQA A Level Music. Uptake across KS4 remains strong, with increasing continuity into KS5. Outcomes in recent years have been consistently positive, reflecting the strength of curriculum sequencing, practical engagement and high expectations.

Further curriculum detail can be found at:

<https://www.trinity.nottingham.sch.uk/curriculum-area/music/>

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.

Our co-curricular programme extends and enriches curriculum learning, offering students opportunities to deepen their musical skills, collaborate with others and perform regularly.

Ensembles and activities

Students can participate in a wide range of ensembles, including:

- Choir (open access, audition-free)
- Chamber Choir (age-specific)
- Swing Band
- String Group
- Concert Band
- Percussion Group (invite-only)
- Music Production club

Provision is mostly open-access, ensuring broad participation, while some groups are structured to support progression and challenge.

Instrumental and vocal tuition

We offer one-to-one and small-group instrumental and vocal tuition. Charging and subsidy arrangements remain consistent and inclusive.

In addition, a generous donation has enabled the school to offer a three-year bursary for six students, providing free instrumental lessons. This programme is already underway and will be extended to a new cohort in the coming year, further strengthening equity of access.

Facilities and rehearsal space

Students have access to well-equipped music rooms for individual practice and ensemble rehearsals. Open rehearsal spaces are well-used before, during and after school, supporting independent learning and student-led music making.

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 beyond lessons and rehearsals are a defining feature of music at Trinity and music plays a prominent role in major school events. At Prize Giving (December 2025), performances by the Trinity Choir and Orchestra, String Group, Concert Band, Swing Band and Percussion Ensemble placed music at the heart of the celebration. These performances reflected students' musical growth, commitment and the strong sense of community rooted in our shared faith.

Students perform regularly through:

- Assemblies and acts of worship
- Termly concerts, including the Spring Concert
- Major events such as Prize Giving

These opportunities allow students from Year 7 beginners to experienced performers to contribute to the musical life of the school.

External workshops and enrichment

We actively bring professional musicians into school. Recent highlights include:

- MEHEM UK Music Tour with artist *Emma McGann*, combining live performance with discussion of music industry pathways
- Sing City Schools Tour with *Davina Songbird*, delivering vocal workshops focused on technique, confidence and resilience

These experiences give students insight into creative careers and real-world musicianship.

Trips and live music

Students attend live performances wherever possible. Recent and planned visits include trips to the Nottingham Theatre Royal, including attendance at *The Marriage of Figaro* to support A Level study. Discounted educational tickets and additional financial support ensure access for all students, including those eligible for Pupil Premium.

In the future

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

Our focus is on **deepening quality and progression**, rather than expanding provision for its own sake. Key priorities include:

1. **Strengthening KS3 singing culture**
 - Further embedding singing into curriculum units
 - Expanding vocal confidence through ensemble work and workshops
2. **Transition and continuity**
 - Continuing the Year 7 Music Day
 - Developing closer links with the Our Lady of Lourdes Music Service to support musical continuity from primary into KS3
3. **Curriculum refinement**
 - Further refining core musical knowledge using the MAD T SHIRT framework
 - Aligning assessment and retrieval with whole-school curriculum priorities

Through these priorities, we aim to ensure that every student at Trinity experiences music as a meaningful, inclusive and aspirational part of their education.