

Music development plan summary: Sale High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	A Bussell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jon Williams
Name of local music hub	Trafford 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.

You can find a copy of the Sale High School music curriculum on the school website <https://salehighschool.org.uk>

Here is a link to outline how Sale High School is working to increase access for disabled pupils and support pupils with special educational needs (SEND). <https://salehighschool.org.uk/parents/sen-support>

Current time allocations for KS3 music lessons:

Year 7 – 1 hour per week.

Year 8 – 1 hour per week.

Year 9 – 1 hour per fortnight.

Current time allocations for KS4 music lesson:

Year 10 – 5 hours per fortnight.

Year 11 – 5 hours per fortnight (plus 40 minutes as a period 6)

There is also one additional hour each week dedicated to composition completion. This is completed during one hour after school and one lunch time

Curriculum:

The school music curriculum follows the national music curriculum and is informed by the model music curriculum.

Pupils have many opportunities to play an instrument during lesson time, with a focus on keyboard, percussion, use of vocals and more unusual experimental pieces using body percussion. Students explore a range of topics which allows them to work as individuals or within small ensemble groups or as a whole class ensemble. These opportunities are given across all year groups.

Sale High School is supported in delivering music through partnership with Trafford Music Hub.

Qualifications offered:

Pupils follow the Edexcel syllabus MU01 to gain a GCSE qualification at the end of year 11.

Students in any year can access practical or theory graded music exams through our links with Trafford Music Service or by way of their peripatetic teachers.

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.

Sale High School is in partnership with Trafford Music Service who provide all our peripatetic instrumental teachers. We offer a wide range of weekly instrumental lessons, currently drum kit, guitar, brass, piano/keyboard, string and vocal. This is flexible depending on the needs of our students at any given time and ensures a smooth transition for any students transitioning from primary school who are already in the Trafford Music Service system.

Peripatetic music lessons are offered through the Trafford Music Website (please follow this link for up to date information including pricing) and pupils can choose to have individual, paired or group lessons. They can also choose to have a 20 minute or 30 minute lesson.

We are able to offer free lessons to a limited number of pupil premium students. Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the head of music directly to discuss this.

Through the Trafford Music Consortium, we are able to offer a guitar ensemble and both junior and senior choirs free of charge to any interested students.

There are also a number of student-led groups who use the rehearsal rooms at lunch times.

Sale High School has a selection of instruments available to borrow free of charge. We hope that this will allow parents to encourage the learning of a musical instrument without the commitment of buying one, which can be costly. Should we not have an instrument in stock, Trafford Music Service offer a very reasonable instrumental hire scheme www.traffordmusicservice.co.uk

Students can work toward external music awards such as ABRSM through their peripatetic music teacher and Trafford Music Service.

Sale High School has four practice areas for flexible use. One medium size room for guitar ensemble, one drum kit space and two smaller rooms with pianos. These can be booked out by students to rehearse as a group or as individuals. Availability will depend on use by visiting peripatetic staff and GCSE students, who will be given priority.

All the above information will be discussed with pupils during music lessons. Pupils can speak to the head of music for further advice/instrumental loans.

Part C: Musical events

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 year:

Sale High School prides itself in celebrating our students' achievements. We encourage students to perform in assemblies. These can be pieces selected from within the classroom, pieces completed in peripatetic lessons, pieces studied/performed outside of school or pieces by student led groups. Performing students are supported by staff to perform in a manner suiting their confidence level and experience e.g. performing centre stage or performing in the background as pupils enter the hall.

Students prepare pieces as part of our Cultural Diversity Day. These are performed in front of years 7-10 in a wonderful outdoor concert celebrating music, dance, art, cuisine and much more. The music focus in 2025-26 will be year 7 Samba Band and choir performance. Student led groups are also encouraged to take to the outdoor stage whilst the audience are being seated for the end of event celebration concert.

Sale High School holds an annual Christmas Concert in which we encourage all musicians to participate. Year 7 student volunteers will perform their class vocal pieces for extra credit, the junior and senior extra-curricular choirs, student led groups and soloists will also take part alongside drama and dance students. We include all levels of performance, from absolute beginners through to our more experienced musicians. Everyone starts their musical journey somewhere and we want to celebrate all progress. Details will be given to form tutors and will be discussed during year 7 music lessons in the first half term.

There is an annual production which focuses on solo and ensemble singing. Students will work with staff during rehearsals after school to pull the music, drama and dance together. Auditions are open to any student in years 7-10 and will be held in the first term for both solo and ensemble positions. Details will be given to form tutors.

There are many other opportunities to get involved in the music department. For example, students may be asked to demonstrate their instrumental expertise to younger students who are looking to take peripatetic lessons. Students perform to visitors for option events and open evenings. Those who may not want to perform can talk about their musical experiences and work during open day events.

For musical performances, concerts and shows in and out of school, students will receive information via their form tutors during form time and music staff during curriculum time, depending on the year groups involved. Parents will be informed via group call regarding consent and costings.

In the future

Sale High School Music Department Forward Planning:

- Introduce music technology to KS3 students
- Increase the uptake of brass and drum kit students
- Raise the profile of Trafford Music Service provision to our students to ensure they access more ensemble experience
- Maintain and build on the number of students participating in peripatetic music lessons
- Reinstate a large practice room/classroom area to offer steel pan ensemble, a permanent choir area and provide a break-out space for group work
- Reintroduce Music Ambassadors as student experts to represent and promote the subject.

Further information (optional)

- If your child wishes to participate in peripatetic music lessons through Trafford Music Service you can use this link or for general information about the ensemble, theory lessons etc. that Trafford Music Service offer, please follow this link <https://www.traffordmusicservice.co.uk>