

Music development plan summary: Stanley High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	April 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	April 2027
Name of the school music lead	N Barker/J Goodier
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	J Goodier
Name of local music hub	Sound Music Hub (formerly Sefton Music Service)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

Part A: Curriculum music

The music curriculum at our school has been thoughtfully designed to ensure a high-quality, inclusive, and engaging musical education for all students. The full music curriculum is published on the school website, ensuring transparency and accessibility for parents, carers, and the wider school community.

Allocation of classroom music time

Students in years 7-9 receive one period of music per week. Students who opt to study BTEC Level 2 Tech Award Music Practice or Eduqas GCSE Music in years 10 and 11 and receive five periods of music per fortnight as well as a peripatetic instrumental/vocal lesson.

Curriculum content

Information relating to the music curriculum can be accessed here [Music | Stanley High School](#)

At Key Stage 3, our music curriculum is informed by *the Model Music Curriculum* (March 2021) and the *National Curriculum for Music* but we operate our own customised music curriculum where content has been selected which is relevant to our own Stanley High School students – to reflect their context locally, and to embed the discussion of creative careers within the curriculum in accordance with [Gatsby benchmark 4](#).

Our curriculum centres on the key areas of:

- Listening and appraising
- Composing
- Performing
- Music theory and technology

Skills and knowledge are delivered through a spiral curriculum model, where key musical vocabulary, knowledge, and skills are revisited and built upon in each topic. This approach supports deep learning and long-term retention.

We also provide opportunities for students to sing both in class and in extracurricular settings, promoting vocal development and ensemble skills.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum also includes three careers-focused schemes of work for our curriculum:

- ‘Life at Sea’, aimed at year 7 students
- ‘At the Movies’ aimed at year 8-9 students.
- ‘Liverpool, City of Pop’ aimed at year 9 students.

We are also trained in the [Musical Futures](#) philosophy and use their resources and methods extensively to support the year 7 to 9 curriculum.

Students have regular opportunities to perform both as soloists and within small group ensembles, encouraging confidence, cooperation, and creativity. Lessons are practical and engaging, with students composing and performing music using a range of traditional and digital resources, including music technology software.

We maintain strong partnerships with [SoundMusic Hub](#), [Gambolling Arena Theatre](#), and collaborate with other schools across the [Southport Learning Trust](#) to enhance the musical experiences and opportunities available to our students and to provide staff development. These partnerships support access to instrumental tuition, workshops, performances, and enrichment activities.

At Key Stage 4, students can opt to study either:

- BTEC Level 1/2 in Music Practice, or
- Eduqas GCSE Music (9–1)

Both courses are offered and delivered in Years 10 and 11, giving students the flexibility to follow a pathway suited to their strengths and interests.

In addition to their core qualification studies, students can pursue further musical development through:

- Rock School graded exams in guitar, bass, drums and vocals
- ABRSM graded woodwind examinations
- LCM Musical Theatre and Pop Vocals exams

Part B: Co-curricular music

At our school, we are proud to offer an extensive and fully inclusive co-curricular music programme that provides access to high-quality musical tuition and ensemble opportunities for all students, regardless of background or prior experience.

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition:

Students can access 1:1 or small group tuition in the following disciplines:

- Vocals
- Guitar and Bass Guitar
- Woodwind
- Drums
- Piano/ keyboard
- DJing

Tuition at KS3 and 4 costs £69 per term for a shared instrumental/vocal lesson. KS3 Pupil Premium students receive free instrumental/vocal lessons for one instrument. Instrumental /vocal tuition for GCSE and BTEC students' lessons are free.

Ensembles and Clubs:

We are developing range of ensembles to support progression and enjoyment for all students. These include:

- Various student-led and staff-led Bands
- Guitar Club
- Choir
- Music lunch club
- Annual full-scale School Musical Production
- Summer showcases

Instrument Access and Rehearsal Opportunities:

- All students learning strings, brass or woodwind instruments benefit from free instrument loans through the Sefton Music Service, supporting rehearsal and practice outside of lessons.
- Students playing drums, piano or guitar have access to various well-equipped practice spaces before school, during lunch, and after school.
- Some students may also borrow keyboards to support their progress at home.

Performance and Progression:

- Students can perform regularly in three annual showcases, providing performance experience in a supportive environment.
- For those wishing to pursue formal recognition of their skills, students can prepare for and sit graded performance and theory exams, including:
 - ABRSM (performance & theory)
 - London College of Music (LCM)

- Rock School performance exams

Inclusivity and Collaboration:

- All ensembles are inclusive and open to all students regardless of experience or ability.
- Students are encouraged to support each other's progress, creating a collaborative and nurturing learning environment.
- Any student may join choirs, bands, or ensembles – all contributions are valued.

Partnerships and Wider Engagement:

We work in close partnership with:

- Sefton Music Service and Sefton & Sound Music Education Hub
- Other schools within Southport Learning Trust
- A wide network of schools across Sefton, engaging in cross-school musical projects and co-curricular events. 60 year 6 pupils from two local primary schools recently participated in our production of Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat
- We also host music events attended by our local primary schools, such as the [Ex Cathedra](#), "[Sing for Sefton](#)" workshop held in April 2026.

Our aim is to ensure every student can thrive musically, have the chance to perform, grow in confidence, and enjoy music both within and beyond the classroom. Working with our local primaries also helps to support children in their transition from primary to secondary school, building confidence and familiarity with larger settings.

Part C: Musical experiences

We provide a rich calendar of musical experiences throughout the academic year that enable all students to participate, perform, and enjoy music in a wide variety of settings both in and beyond school.

Annual School Musical:

Each year, our school stages a full musical production, in partnership with theatre staff and professional musicians.

Students from Years 7 to 11 can be involved in all aspects of the production: performing, playing, tech and backstage crew, or as part of the creative team. This major annual event is open to all and highly inclusive.

Trips and Events Beyond School:

- We engage in inter-school collaborations with other local schools, including those within the Southport Learning Trust, offering joint concerts, workshops.
- Where possible, students visit external music performances and take part in out-reach workshops with professional musicians and music education organisations.

Access and Charging Information:

- **Concerts, trips, and productions** are subsidised for pupil premium pupils to ensure no child misses out due to cost.
- Parents and carers are regularly invited to attend performances, many of which are **free of charge or affordably priced**, with concessions available.

Partnerships Supporting Musical Experiences:

- We work closely with:
 - **Sefton & Sound Music Hub**
 - **Southport Learning Trust**
 - **Professional musicians and local music leaders**
 - Other music education organisations that run **workshops, masterclasses, and ensemble days**

These partnerships help us to offer meaningful, high-quality musical experiences that go far beyond the classroom, supporting our vision to develop every student's potential as a performer, listener, and creative musician.

In the future

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

Instrumental tuition

We plan to increase the range of instrumental tuition offered, to include:

- Strings
- Brass

We also plan to offer a solo lesson model for piano pupils, whilst retaining the offer of a joint lesson for pupils in financial hardship.

We plan to promote the availability of keyboards for home practice with our Key Stage 3 pupils.

Increasing In-School Musical Opportunities:

We plan to create more opportunities for students to perform in school at:

- Celebration and Awards Evenings
- Open Evenings and Information Events
- Christmas and Summer Concerts
- Special calendar events
- BTEC Music showcase

These performances will be open to all year groups, and students will be invited to participate as soloists, in ensembles, choirs, or as instrumentalists or to perform original compositions or arrangements they have worked on in class or co-curricular sessions.