

**Music development plan summary:  
St Leonard's Catholic School**

**Overview**

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs E Anyan and Mrs F Hastie
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs A Stewart
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service

**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 details of our KS3, GCSE and A Level on our website:**

<https://stleonardsdurham.bwcet.com/the-curriculum/departments/music/>

**Pupils will learn how to play the keyboard in Year 7, the ukulele or guitar in Year 8, and the bass guitar and drum kit in Year 9.**

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Rhythm Quartet	Frère Jacques arrangement	Reggae project
Melody writing	Christmas carols	
Keyboard skills	Bass clef and bass riffs	Band project
Sensational sounds	12 Bar Blues	
Ternary form	Instrumental skills and group performance	Music with a message
Soundtracks		
Key Stage 4 OCR GCSE Music is taught in small groups for five hours per fortnight.		
A Level AQA Music is taught in small groups for ten hours per fortnight.		

## 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.

Pupils are able to learn the following instruments in school: upper stings; lower strings; voice; guitar; percussion; brass; keyboard. These take place in small groups. The cost for these is £97 per term. If your child is eligible for free school meals on income grounds the following reduced charges apply: lessons £44 per term, hire of instrument £11 per term.

Pupils are able to hire instruments from the Durham Music Service and participate in their extensive range of activities. The cost for this is £42 per term.

<https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/>

Additionally, all pupils spend an hour a week learning music in their tutor groups. Lessons are practical and fun.

Pupils are invited to join in as many enrichment opportunities as they like: lower school choir; keyboard club; folk band; senior choir; senior orchestra. All of these activities are free of charge!

There are practice rooms where pupils may practise at break or lunchtimes. The department is well resourced with two grand pianos, four Yamaha digital pianos, thirty Yamaha keyboards, bass guitars, classical guitars, ukuleles and three drum kits.

We are entering our second year in the fantastic Samling Singing Schools programme, where vocal experts come in to work with our Senior Choir and soloists. Additionally, we are entering our second year working with Durham Music Hub/Durham University's music department for A Level music composition. In February 2024, the chamber choir Exaudi performed all of Year 13's compositions in a public concert at Durham Town Hall as part of the Durham Vocal Festival. This will take place again in 2025.

## 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.

Pupils will be able to enjoy singing during assemblies and other liturgical services throughout the year. The department organises two major concerts each year, at Advent and Lent. The Senior Choir usually performs a major choral work each year, such as Mozart's *Missa Brevis in D Minor* (2023) and Mozart's *Requiem* (2022). Additionally, a smaller, informal concert will take place during the summer term, featuring GCSE and A Level pupils' work. The excellent Brass Band performs in Durham City Centre at Christmas each year, raising money for charity.

A Level pupils will be going to see a live broadcast of Mozart's opera 'The Marriage of Figaro' in September 2024.

### **In the future**

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

The school is currently being rebuilt, and we are excited about moving into our brand-new department in 2026. In the meantime, new temporary accommodation has been erected on the County Hall site, with two large classrooms and four practice rooms.

### **Further information (optional)**

Durham Music Hub: <https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/sign-up>

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 to for support beyond the school.