

Music development plan summary: Sir James Smith's School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr Richard Sykes
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Richard Sykes
Name of local music hub	Cornwall Music Hub / AsOne
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Cornwall Music Service Trust

This is a summary of how Sir James Smith's 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.

This section addresses the content taught during lesson time, the duration dedicated to music lessons, and the music qualifications or awards that pupils can attain.

The music curriculum supports students in developing the three strands; Performing, Composing, and Musical Understanding; which in turn support the skills of group performance, Singing, Performance and Accuracy, Creating Ideas, Improvisation, Appraising Music and Musical Notation understanding.

These elements are integrated into our teaching framework, with adaptations to suit our learners and our specific educational setting.

KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Students receive 1 hour a week of timetabled music lessons across all year groups.

An overview of the music curriculum for each year group is available on the Sir James Smith's School website.

<https://www.sirjamesmiths.cornwall.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+KS3%2FKS4&pid=147>

KS4 (Years 10 and 11)

In Years 10 and 11, students undertake the Eduqas GCSE Music qualification.

The qualification specification can be found by clicking [here](#).

KS4 5 hours per fortnight	
Performing Music A solo and an ensemble piece, together totalling a minimum of four minutes. Students may submit more than two shorter pieces. Focus is on developing musicality, instrumental or vocal technique, and expressive, communicative performance.	Composing Music Two newly composed pieces, including one in response to an exam board brief. Focus is placed on creative development, highly effective use of musical elements, and precise control of style, structure, and character.
Appraising Music Exploring the elements of music through the areas of study: Forms and Devices, Music for Ensembles, Film Music, and Popular Music. Analysing two set works—'Africa' by Toto and Bach's 'Badinerie'—to develop listening, appraising, and transcription skills in pitch and rhythm.	

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

At Sir James Smith's School, inclusion and equity are at the heart of our curriculum.

We are committed to ensuring every student can access and succeed within the music curriculum. We recognise that some students may need additional, often temporary,

support to achieve this. Our music department works closely with the SENDCO to make the music curriculum fully accessible to learners with SEND.

Additional Music Qualifications

At Sir James Smith's School, students have the opportunity to supplement their curriculum learning with graded music examinations. Delivered by peripatetic teachers from [Cornwall Music Service Trust](#), these extra qualifications cover a range of instruments including brass, woodwind, strings, drum kit, piano, vocal, ukulele, guitar and bass guitar.

Part B: Extra-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.

This section highlights the vibrant opportunities at Sir James Smith's School for students to learn instruments, sing, and share their music beyond lesson time. Students engage in a variety of ensembles and groups, providing rewarding experiences to create, perform, and develop musical skills while enjoying the lively and inclusive music community.

In addition to all the opportunities below, the music department maintains an open-door policy during most breaks and lunchtimes, inviting students to rehearse, express themselves musically, and develop their skills in a supportive, safe, and encouraging environment. Rehearsal spaces are also bookable across the week afterschool during additional P6 sessions and clubs.

Instrumental & Vocal Groups & Clubs

Sir James Smith's School offers a range of music clubs, instrumental and vocal ensembles, open to all students across every year group. All are offered free of charge. The offer varies across the school year to suit student need, specialism and demand. Rehearsals and activities take place in specialist spaces within the music department and instrumental rooms. All groups perform regularly both within the school and the local community and have at a national level.

KS4 Music P6 Club

Designed for Key Stage 4 students, this club supports creative composition and performance. Pupils have access to specialist software (Logic Pro X) in our iMac Suite and can record and produce music in our 18-track digital studio. Dedicated teachers provide extra support for coursework, while practice rooms offer space for rehearsals and exam preparation

Rock Band Club

This weekly session offers students the opportunity to form groups, rehearse instrumental and band skills in our dedicated spaces. As they progress, bands then perform lunchtime live lounge sessions to build confidence and develop their stage craft.

Groups then go out into the community and take part in local festivals. We also attend [Music for Youth](#) events each year.

Samba Band

Designed for KS3 students, this club is a dynamic group that both develops individual rhythm and ensemble skills. Often supported and lead by older members leading the group from KS4.

Choir – vocal ensemble

Our vocal choir welcomes anyone who loves to sing or wants to develop their voice and make new friends. The choir's repertoire includes pop, gospel, and classical music, with opportunities for solo performances.

Production show band

Working collaboration with the Drama department, yearly productions are put on either a Musical Theatre show or Drama production. Students feature acting and singing on stage and are accompanied by a 'pit band' made up from students from years 7-11.

Peripatetic Instrumental Lessons

Learning an instrument or singing, at any level, is both enjoyable and deeply rewarding. At Sir James Smith's School, specialist peripatetic teachers provide personalised one-on-one or small group music lessons tailored to each student's needs.

This is provided by Cornwall Music Service Trust.

All details of costs and provision is via their website: <https://cmst.co.uk/>

This instruction offers students the chance to explore a wide range of instruments, enriching their musical education in a supportive and diverse environment.

Instrument choices include:

- Brass (Trumpet, Cornet, Trombone, etc...)
- Flute, Clarinet & Saxophone
- Drum Kit
- Guitar - Electric & Acoustic (Rock / Pop /Classical)
- Electric Bass Guitar
- Ukulele
- Keyboard & Piano
- Singing
- Violin, Viola, Cello, & Double Bass

Lessons are subsidised for Pupil Premium students and for Children In Care

Paid for Music Clubs: (Cornwall Music Hub Subsidised)

Here at Sir James Smith's we work closely with Cornwall Music Service Trust to give our students attend a weekly large ensemble experience, by hosting the following North Cornwall Area ensembles. This also brings students in from Bude, Holsworthy, Callington, Bodmin and Wadebridge

Woodwind and brass students:

[The Triggshire Wind Orchestra](#)

This currently is rehearsing every Wednesday, locally in Delabole Church (hopefully to return to SJS)

String students:

[The Triggshire String Orchestra](#)

Rehearsing every Wednesday in the main music space at Sir James Smith's School.

Students also can attend county level ensembles which rehearse in Truro:

[Cornwall Youth Brass Ensemble \(Truro\)](#)

[Cornwall Youth Jazz Orchestra \(Truro\)](#)

[Cornwall Youth Wind Orchestra \(Truro\)](#)

[Sax is our Business \(Truro\)](#)

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.

Throughout the academic year, a range of exciting musical opportunities take place, with at least one performance opportunity each term. These events provide invaluable experiences for our students to showcase their talents and contribute to the community.

Some of these include:

Music for Youth – Frequencies – This annual event students perform in front for a live audience and mentors as a part of the Music for Youth festival:

<https://www.mfy.org.uk/> This had led on to in the past, students being invited to perform at the National Festival of Music in Birmingham Symphony Hall

Performances at Camelford's "Party in the Park" – An annual community event, our musicians entertain the town with approximately one hour of performances on the main stage.

Camelford Christmas Lights switch on – students perform in the "Band Stand" in the centre of Camelford creating a festive atmosphere.

The School's "Christmas Cabaret" – A festive performance for parents featuring our all our ensembles and drama club.

BSO GCSE Concert – An enriching visit to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's GCSE Set Works performance and workshop (with AsOne Hub)

Annual Yr 11 Awards Evening – A celebration recognising year students with certificates and trophies, accompanied by musical performances from ensembles and soloists.

“Thirst Aid” festival – This vibrant annual event, organised by local charity group in support of local First Responders. It is held in Trevone, Padstow, where student bands perform on the main stage.

Carnivals: St Teath: Each year students get to perform at local events in and around their village communities

Napoleon Inn – Boscastle: we have been working regularly with local music venue, to provide SJS bands opportunities to take over and run an evening gig in the historic village on the North Cornish Coast

Port Issac Summer Sessions: Set in the picturesque fishing village, SJS students perform as a part of their Summer live music events.

Boardmasters – Newquay: Keg and Pasty Stage. As a part of AsOne Hub showcase, student bands are invited to submit audition material to perform at this amazing national festival! This has now become the icing on the cake for students here at SJS.

Band night – Our premier annual performance event, held in the Drama Studio

Production – The Performing Arts faculty’s musical theatre/dram show, featuring students acting and singing on stage, often accompanied by a pit band comprised of student musicians.

Summer Concert/Showcase – A relaxed evening of musical entertainment, showcasing soloists, duets and small groups from all year groups.

Open Evenings – Musicians provide live performances and support whenever the school is open to the public, welcoming prospective students and families.

Students also attend and perform as a part of the following local music and classical festivals:

St Endellion Music Festival: <https://endellionfestivals.org.uk/>

Wadebridge Festival of Music and Speech:
<https://www.wadebridgefestivalofmusicandspeech.com/>

Additionally, students regularly have opportunities to attend theatre shows and Concerts and gigs whenever available, further enriching their cultural experience.

In the future

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

Here at Sir James Smith’s School we are committed to continue developing our curriculum and provision in alignment with the following seven key features of high-quality music provision.

- Timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour per week across aligned key

- stages.
- Access to tuition on a wide range of instruments and vocal training via our established and successful peripatetic instrumental service.
- Opportunities to participate in school choirs, ensembles, and bands, supported by regular rehearsals and dedicated individual practice spaces.
- Regular and frequent school performances (at least termly) to showcase student learning and foster confidence.
- At least one annual opportunity to experience inspiring live performances.

Continuing and growing our relationship with Cornwall Music Hub (AsOne) to keep offering creative and enriching musical experiences for our students.

To aim to be a Music Centre for Camelford and surrounding area for young people through hosting the North Cornwall Area ensembles.

Embedding the music department within the local community by continuing to build on our strong links with local venues and events.

Further information (optional)