

Music Development Plan: Co-op Academy Manchester

Overview

Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	8th September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Max Stannard
Name of local music hub	One Education Music
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.

The Key Stage 3 Music curriculum at Co-op Academy Manchester fully encompasses the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum's aims, attainment targets and subject content. The academy delivers 1 hour a week of lessons to pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 and 1 hour two Year 9 for three half terms, as they rotate with drama. Further details of the Key Stage 3 Music Curriculum long term plans and the overall music learning journey are published on the academy website.

Pupils cover performing, composing, listening, appraising and singing during their time in Key Stage 3. Lessons focus on learning subject knowledge including musical terminology and applying the knowledge when listening to music and through compositional processes. Pupils learn to perform on instruments including percussion, ukulele, keyboard and guitar. Pupils also have an opportunity to use music technology to create music.

At Key Stage 4 pupils have the option to study two courses. GCSE Music gives a traditional music education, with a focus on performing (30%) composing (30%) and listening to and appraising music (40%). The BTEC Tech Award in Music practice gives

pupils the opportunity to study mixing and recording music, as well as developing their performing and compositional skills.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Co-op Academy Manchester, we provide free musical instrument lessons and singing lessons which are delivered by our Co-op Lead Tutor for Greater Manchester in addition to visiting peripatetic staff. Lessons last for 20 minutes each week and are delivered either individually or in groups of up to 5 pupils. A wide range of instruments are available for pupils to learn; these include piano, voice, drums, guitar, bass guitar, saxophone, flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, violin, cello and double bass.

At Co-op Academy Manchester, we have a number of extracurricular groups which pupils can participate in after school. A string orchestra caters for violinists, cellists, guitar and bass players. Our big band includes piano, drums, bass, guitar, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpet and trombone players. Longer lunch times means this year we will start a choir at lunch time for Year 7 pupils and a piano club. The Expressive and Performing Arts Department runs an annual school musical that takes place in February. A DJing club will be run by our Music Technician for the first time.

The Manchester North Music Centre, which is based in our academy, is another way in which pupils can practise outside of lessons. Access to the centre is free and many of our pupils take advantage of this to play in their samba band, wind band and string group. In addition to our classrooms, we have 1 large rehearsal room and 7 small practice rooms which are available for pupils to practise in after school, in particular during XL sessions.

Part C: Musical experiences

Our pupils will have the opportunity to perform in a range of concerts throughout the year. This will begin with a Christmas Concert at the end of the first term.

We will also hold our school production before the February half term, which this year is Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical* JR. The school production is open to all pupils who want to take part, including backstage roles. There will be three performances to the public and a performance to local primary schools.

There will be more concerts throughout the year, including our big band participating in the One Education Jazz Showcase at Band on the Wall in Manchester. This is an event which is free for pupils to take part in and for parents to attend, held at a prestigious venue in Manchester.

Rock Bands formed by students can participate in the Band on the Wall Showcase at the end of this year and individual musicians will be able to take part in the Co-op Academy Trust's Young Musician of the Year competition.

Our bands and soloists will have further opportunities to perform with primary school tours and performances at school events such as our Open Evening, Presentation Evening and Culture Day.

In the future

In the future we are hoping to develop a more integrated music performance opportunity within the school, where pupils can more easily perform to their peers, whether this be in assembly or at lunch times.

We will increase the opportunities for pupils to engage in music technology, making use of our music technician in and out of the classroom, beginning with DJ club, and beyond that equipping them with skills in recording and editing.

Brass is still an area of development and will be targeting lessons on trumpet and trombone to grow this offer and develop an ensemble.

Further information

During the course of the year, we are delighted to work with partner organisations including:

One Education

Manchester North Music Centre

Anthem Tuition