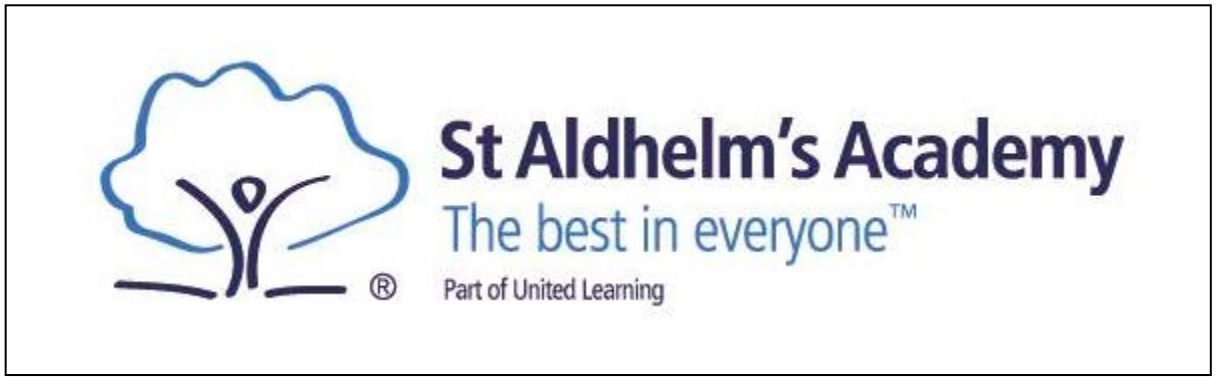


School Development Plan Summary: St Aldhelm's Academy

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1. Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	05/11/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	01/09/26
Name of the school music lead	Miss Zoe Trivett
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr C Hayward
Name of local music hub	Soundstorm
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.

2. 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.

2.1. KS3

For KS3, music is taught weekly to all students in years 7 and 8 and is taught fortnightly for year 9. The curriculum in years 7 and 8 is to introduce various styles of music and musical concepts, with year 9 being structured as an introduction to the skills appropriate for live music and knowledge needed for KS4.

2.1.1. Year 7:

Year 7 is split into five topics: Singing, Rhythm and pulse, African music, Keyboard skills, and Orchestral music. Throughout these topics, students are introduced to key terminology and learn practical skills on various instruments and music technology.

The students explore improvisation and composition, using their ears to hear and identify rhythms and melodies. We begin to teach the basics of music notation, helping students to read and write notated music along the Treble Clef.

2.1.2. Year 8:

Year 8 is again split into five topics: Keyboard skills, Samba, Rhythm and Blues, Ukulele skills, and Band work. At this level, we are expanding on their practical abilities learnt in year 7. The students have access to experiment with more instruments and within ensemble performance lessons. We expand on their previous knowledge of musical notation.

2.1.3. Year 9:

There are several topics over in this year's curriculum such as; musical elements, music notation, composition, music technology, music performance, listening and appraising. These are taught holistically through grouped band work. This is tailored to give the necessary skills for students to be able to jump into KS4 Music and to give them an opportunity to explore more genres. All students will have the opportunity to find their favoured instrument and style.

2.2. KS4

At KS4, we study the EduQas Music GCSE spec. This course is split between performance (30%), composition (30%), and an appraising exam (40%). Each student will undertake 3 components of work, two of which respond to a given musical brief.
These briefs are broken down to give the students the chance to study musical styles, composition, and performance. The components are designed in a way that each new topic uses skills learnt in the previous and develops those skills for the exam.

3. Part B: Co-curriculum 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.

At St Aldhelm's Academy, we are keen to push students to take part in extra-curricular musical activities. We offer a range of instrumental lessons with peripatetic teachers, after-school clubs, as well as use of the music room during social times. Instrumental lessons are offered to all students from years 7-11, with funding options available to students who are eligible for pupil premium funding.

Currently, we are offering lessons in piano, guitar (acoustic and electric), ukulele, bass guitar, singing and drums. All lessons are offered weekly and are taught in 20 minute lessons with a mixture of solo and group lessons.
We put on three shows each year, a Christmas showcase, a summer musical (or play), and the Young Musician of the Year showcase. The Christmas show highlights the talent across the performing arts department with acts in Drama, Dance as well as Music. We are running two after school clubs to prepare acts for the show, a band club and a choir club.

4. 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.

We are always looking to offer workshops, trips and opportunities for students to perform. Last year we ran a trip to watch Hamilton at the Mayflower. This year we are in conversation with Soundstorm organising some visiting workshops around composition and performance. These opportunities are available for each year group with priority given to those year groups directly studying that topic/ skill.

5. In the future

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

We are keen to grow Music within the Performing Arts department as well as the whole Academy. With this in mind we would look at options for offering more opportunity to perform with dedicated music shows and showcases. Looking to bring in more instrumental teachers, to offer a wide range of instruments, but to also offer extra time so more students can attend lessons. We will continue to work with Soundstorm, looking for opportunities for workshops and trips to offer students. With the budget received from Soundstorm we will also look to invest and upgrade the instruments and equipment the students have access to.