

Developing a lifelong love and appreciation of music

The Music department at Salford City Academy aims to inspire and unlock student creativity, find hidden talents, and build confidence. The purpose of the Music curriculum is to enable all students to develop their musical potential through engaging experiences, recognising that music as art is an important part of cultural identity. We also recognise that music benefits both cognitive development and character development. Performing is a crucial part of this. We encourage and prepare students for lifelong musical learning and appreciation, both in and out of school, including preparation for further study. Learning music is a cultural entitlement for every child, and we hope that our approach will ensure that all students receive this and are successful in their learning.

The Curriculum is driven by the following key areas, which, when taken together, all contribute towards increased development of musicianship. We focus on teaching in a sequence that is carefully designed to develop these disciplines. Music is the dominant language in music lessons.

Performing: Playing and Singing - Provides opportunities for our students to develop their vocal and/or instrumental fluency, accuracy, and expressiveness. To understand musical structures, styles, genres, and traditions, and to identify the expressive use of musical dimensions.

Creating: Composing, Arranging and Improvising - Students will improvise and compose and extend and develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres and traditions across the key stages.

Critical Engagement: Listening, Appraising and Understanding - Students will listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians and develop a deepening understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen, and its history.

Curriculum Principles

All students will study the content outlined in the scheme of learning, which has been constructed based on the following principles:

Entitlement: Students receive one lesson of Music each week at Key Stage 3. The curriculum ensures that the requirements of the national curriculum are met. We aim to encompass activity from outside of the classroom and build on students' learning from beyond the classroom; progress in music comes from formal, non-formal and informal musical experiences. We run a variety of musical ensembles which offer opportunities for students to collaborate with other musicians, develop their performance skills and love of the subject. Students are exposed to live music, including visits to the theatre and to concerts where possible. Music students will be given regular opportunities to perform in front of others, building on their performance, developing their confidence and understanding as musicians. Students who opt for music at Key Stage 4 will be supported with a weekly instrument-specific lesson.

Cohherence: It is important that students understand the key concepts presented. Progress and development is built upon through the sequencing of the curriculum. By working in this way, students will make links between styles and will build and develop their key skills in all topic areas.

Mastery: The curriculum is based on a mastery model, where students are taught the essential knowledge and skills in each of the years of the curriculum so that both knowledge and skills can be re-used effectively in future learning to achieve greater depth of musical learning and outcome. Students should begin to specialise as they progress through the music curriculum, choosing a classroom instrument to 'master' over time.

Adaptability: We have two specialist music teachers and a fully equipped music room with additional practise music rooms. We utilise MAPAS (Salford Music and Performing Arts Service) to support the individual students who want to develop their musical skills and abilities beyond the classroom curriculum. Teachers adapt resources to meet the needs of their own classes and to ensure all students can access the curriculum and work towards an increasing degree of independent practice.

Representation: The music curriculum offers a rich and varied curriculum aiming to expose students to influences and traditions from many different cultural and historical contexts. We believe that it is essential to their understanding that they understand the 'why' as well as the 'how'. Students will be introduced to repertoire from different cultures and backgrounds. For example, music from the 'Classical' canon, pop music since 1950 (including developing an understanding of the context in which music was created, performed and heard) and music from around the world. These will include experiences of live performances where possible and appropriate. We provide opportunities for students from all backgrounds to experience learning an instrument from a range of instrument families and specialist tutors.

Education with Character: The Music curriculum at Salford City Academy is designed to facilitate the ambition of our students to perform to a high standard and the ability to work as part of a musical ensemble. We aim to build their confidence through performance in the classroom, in live settings as a soloist or member of a wider ensemble and by participating in memorable occasions that contribute to the school life and community. Music instils respect for one another through performance, and the artistry of musicians from all backgrounds, whilst driving enthusiasm through an engaging curriculum and a range of extra-curricular activities.