

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

Music Department



Our Music Department:

- is staffed by dedicated, specialist practitioners
- is open to innovation and change
- plays a major role in enhancing the Creative Arts curriculum and cultural capital across the school
- is inclusive and pivotal in developing the “whole child”
- has a local and countrywide reputation for “amazing” school productions and our programme of concerts

The Music Department at St Wilfrid's is an exciting place to be, one which searches for a standard of excellence both academically (see results below) and in terms of developing each student holistically.

GCSE Results	2023	2022
Grade 4+	85%	83%
Grade 5+	77%	83%
Grade 7+	31%	25%

Music is offered at A Level and has led to high levels of success with students going on to study at some prestigious universities and Music schools, and pursuing musical pathways as international performers, music technicians and a wealth of other creative roles within the industry.

The department has been widely applauded for the extremely high standard of its annual school productions including Made in Dagenham and more recently, A Midsummer's Night Dream. This year our school production of School of Rock is being performed after half term, and we have a busy annual programme of concerts and collaborative performances and events with our Drama, Dance, Art and Science Departments.

We are proud of our commitment to the Creative Arts and of the successes which students experience through them. In Year 9, students enter an open options system where choice is of paramount importance and therefore there is no prescription regarding EBacc subjects.

We have excellent facilities coupled with a drive to provide the very best educational opportunities for our students and we continue to seek the highest possible standards from staff and students alike. Our Music Department at St Wilfrid's is well resourced in terms of a purpose-built music suite including 2 classrooms, practice rooms, 16 track recording studio, instruments, and teacher reference materials. All teachers within the department have lap tops. We have two main teaching rooms (each equipped with 18 PCs running Cubase Studio 5, Sibelius, Reason and other Music software) with interactive whiteboards and a fully integrated control and monitoring system for all PCs and practice rooms. All rooms are fully interactive as stand-alone rehearsal spaces, live rooms, recording rooms, and the studio and facilities are state of the art in terms of the technology and equipment that the students have to use.



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Music Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Music is taught to Key Stage 3 three lessons a fortnight and Music Technology lessons are fully embedded in the schemes of work. Students follow a programme of study that focuses on the key skills of performing, singing, composing, improvising, listening to and appraising music. It is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum and incorporates music from a wide range of styles, cultures and historical periods. Students are encouraged to develop their musical creativity through a range of practical activities which illustrate originality, imagination and the ability to develop and improve their work. These activities also allow them to develop and refine their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of various genres of music. Students will use a range of instruments throughout Key Stage 3 including keyboard, guitar, ukulele, various percussion instruments, and voice. Music Technology is used to enhance and facilitate learning and the students will learn to sequence MIDI, capture and process audio, as well as mixing skills on a range of software and hardware.

Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 the students follow the Eduqas (9-1) GCSE syllabus.

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music/gcse/>

GCSE Music provides students with the opportunity to study both classical, popular and world music genres, looking not only at the integral elements of each type of music, but also providing an awareness and understanding of the social, cultural and traditions of each genre and style. The course allows students to develop their skills in composition, performing and the use and application of specific musical technology. GCSE Music enables students to extend existing skills in music as well as widen their appreciation of different musical traditions and to see where it is relevant in today's wide and varied music industry. The main "Areas of Study" for GCSE Music are:

- Musical Forms and Devices
- Music for Ensembles
- Film Music
- Popular Music

We do not currently offer Music Technology as a GCSE option but the use and application of music technology skills, is fully integrated into the teaching of GCSE Music.

Key Stage 5

Both Music A Level is offered in Key Stage 5 but the running of the course is dependent on the size of the class. A Level Music follows the Eduqas syllabus:

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music/as-a-level/>



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A Level music continues to develop and build on the skills and knowledge acquired in Key Stage 3 and 4, and students are encouraged to build on their existing strengths as well as explore and challenge their existing musical views and ideas. There are three elements to the course which are Performing (a final recital examined by a visiting examiner), Composing (a portfolio of work) and Listening and Appraising examinations. The topics will link to the Western Classical Tradition from Baroque to the present day, as well as Rock, Pop and Jazz.

Peripatetic Music Lessons

All students in every key stage have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument or to participate in singing lessons. Peripatetic music teachers from West Sussex Music offer a wide range of musical opportunities and students who study an instrument will be encouraged to use it within the school curriculum and enhance their studies further by following a very individual learning journey throughout their music lessons. We currently offer lessons in voice, piano, keyboard, drum kit, guitar (acoustic, electric and bass), strings and woodwind.

Person Specification

- Be an excellent Music teacher
- Have ambition for Music to be the highest performing option subject
- Foster and encourage a lifelong love for Music and Music Education
- Be full of enthusiasm with a 'can do' attitude that is clear to and motivating for all of our students
- Be committed to the extra-curricular life of the school by taking responsibility for the annual school production, performing arts evenings, theatre trips and working with other staff towards achieving the highest of standards.
- Be committed to supporting and nurturing the liturgical musical life of the school through musical participation in Mass, liturgies and community events.

St Wilfrid's Catholic School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

