


# PADGATE ACADEMY

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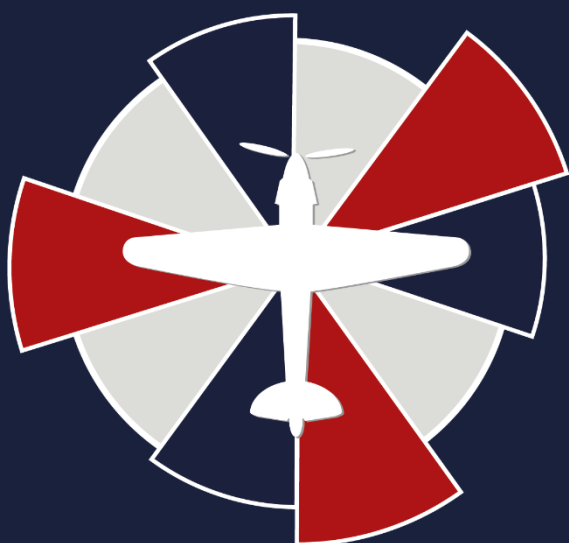
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**Principal:** Mr A McMillan Bsc (Hons)

## Performing Arts - Music





## Music at Padgate Academy

### Vision

Music is an essential part of developing a confident, well-rounded, and tenacious student at Padgate. While adhering to the national curriculum demands for development in listening skills, performance skills and composition skills, at Padgate we recognise that the most important thing in the music department is to develop sense of achievement and creative imagination as well as confidence in our students. Music at our school is about far more than learning to play an instrument or reading notes, it's about developing the whole child. Our aim is to inspire creativity, build confidence, and nurture curiosity through musical experiences that are practical, inclusive, and enriching.

### Curriculum Intent

We believe that every student is musical, regardless of their background or prior experience. Whether they're picking up an instrument for the first time, producing electronic music, or performing live, every child deserves the chance to discover their musical voice.

Through a broad and engaging curriculum, students explore:

- A wide range of musical genres and cultures
- Hands-on experiences with acoustic and digital instruments
- Technology-based creativity through digital audio workstations
- Collaborative and independent learning in both performance and composition
- Opportunities for self-expression, teamwork, and personal growth

### Implementation

Our Music curriculum is thoughtfully structured to ensure progression across all Key Stages. Students engage in a wide range of musical experiences, including performing, composing, listening, and appraising, across a variety of genres and styles.

Key elements of implementation include:

- Sequenced curriculum plans that build on prior musical knowledge and skills, enabling students to develop technical proficiency, creativity, and critical understanding.
- A strong focus on inclusive pedagogy, ensuring all learners are both supported and appropriately challenged.
- Promotion of student voice, confidence, and independence through ensemble work, creative composition, and regular opportunities for performance and reflection.
- An extracurricular programme that enhances musical learning through choirs, instrumental groups, bands, and access to musical tuition and performance opportunities, including whole-school productions and events.



## Impact

The Music curriculum has a huge impact on a student's personal, mental, and academic growth. It develops and strengthens cognitive, social, emotional, and transferable skills. Furthermore, music education enhances transferable skills like independent learning, problem-solving, and resilience, which are valuable in various aspects of life.

### Cognitive Skills:

- **Memory:**

Musicians constantly use their memory to recall notes, rhythms, and musical pieces.

- **Focus and Attention:**

Playing an instrument or singing requires sustained concentration and attention to detail.

- **Pattern Recognition:**

Musical notation and the structure of music involve recognizing patterns and relationships.

### Social and Emotional Skills:

- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Performing in ensembles requires coordination and cooperation with others.
- **Communication:** Music is a form of communication, and musicians learn to express themselves through their instruments or voice.
- **Self-Esteem and Confidence:** Achieving musical goals, whether it's mastering a piece or performing for an audience, can boost self-confidence.

### Transferable Skills:

- **Independent Learning:** Students learn to practice and improve their skills independently.
- **Problem-Solving:** Musicians often encounter challenges and must find solutions to overcome them.
- **Resilience:** Music education teaches students to persevere through challenges and setbacks.

Overall, music education nurtures well-rounded individuals by blending artistic expression with essential life skills.

## Character Development through Music

Participating in the music significantly impacts students' character development by developing confidence, empathy, and discipline. Through a range of musical activities students learn to express themselves and work collaboratively. Rehearsing for a musical performance teaches responsibility and time management. These experiences not only enrich creativity but also build resilience and self-awareness, shaping well-rounded individuals who can connect meaningfully with others and navigate challenges with poise.



## Enrichment & Cultural Capital

Extracurricular activities at our school play a crucial role in enhancing students' musical and personal growth. These programs offer students the chance to refine their skills beyond the regular curriculum, allowing them to explore different musical genres, techniques, and performance styles. Through participation in these, students not only improve their musical abilities but also learn valuable life skills like teamwork, discipline, and time management. One of the highlights is our annual school musical, which involves weekly after-school rehearsals and additional lunchtime practices to ensure a polished performance. For students solely passionate about music, lunchtime band practice provides the perfect opportunity to develop their skills and collaborate with others. We also take pride in performing at Parr Hall, giving students the chance to experience a professional performance environment. Additionally, our AMPED UP music show is a highly anticipated event that celebrates student talent across all year groups, making extracurricular involvement both exciting and rewarding.

The Performing Arts Department at our school has developed a vibrant and inclusive programme, enriched by the provision of peripatetic music lessons. These specialist one-to-one and small group instrumental sessions have had a particularly positive impact on pupil premium students, many of whom are receiving subsidised or fully funded tuition. Access to these lessons has helped bridge the opportunity gap, enabling disadvantaged students to explore their musical talents, build confidence, and participate in school concerts and ensemble performances. For students whose families pay for lessons, the programme continues to offer high-quality musical development, encouraging long-term commitment and progression through graded exams. Across both groups, the peripatetic provision is fostering a culture of aspiration, discipline, and creativity, while also contributing to improved engagement and achievement across the broader curriculum. Our music department strives to create a vibrant, supportive environment where students feel safe to take creative risks, perform in front of others, and grow in musical skill and self-belief.

## Careers and Next Steps

We ensure students are aware of the possible opportunities after completing their GCSE. The music curriculum explores music careers by integrating lessons and activities that highlight the wide range of opportunities in the music industry. Through group-based learning, trips, and real-world assignments such as composing, producing, or reviewing music, students gain insight into roles like performer, producer, educator, therapist, and more. By connecting classroom content to professional pathways, the curriculum not only enhances musical skills but also helps students discover potential career interests and the steps needed to pursue them.