

Music development plan summary: Church Lawton School.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023-2025
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Jay Stannard
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Karen Woodall
Name of local music hub	Love Music Trust

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

At Church Lawton School our music curriculum is delivered by music subject specialist teachers from a local music hub, The Love Music Trust, and supported by school staff. In EYFS to KS3 lessons are delivered in their class groups. In KS4, music technology is an option subject for pupils to choose to take to external examination level.

All EYFS to key Stage 3 pupils currently have a minimum of 1 hour of music per week. This consists of one timetabled lesson per week of dedicated music tuition alongside other opportunities in class to practise and perform the skills they are learning. In Key Stage 4 this increases to four lessons each week, if chosen as part of their option subjects for external examination.

The curriculum covered has been developed by The Love Music Trust and has been informed by the model music curriculum. It is a planned, progressive curriculum based on introducing and developing the knowledge and skills required for the subject. Building on pupils prior knowledge, allowing time for skills to be embedded and for pupils to practise and refine their understanding.

Through the curriculum offer, EYFS to KS3 pupils have the opportunity to experience all aspects of music. The curriculum covers the four key areas of; singing, listening, composing and musicianship/performing/instrumental performance. The pupils are taught to play both rhythmic and melodic instruments and have opportunities for whole class ensemble teaching as part of their lessons. The lessons include playing a range of percussion instruments, Djembe drums, barrel drums, drum kits, tuned percussion such as Boomwhackers, all weather outdoor musical instruments, keyboards and ukuleles.

At Key Stage 4 students undertake a programme of study to complete BTEC Level two qualification in Music Technology. These lessons are also taught by a music subject specialist from our local music hub, The Love Music Trust. Pupils will continue to progress and develop knowledge and skills from the KS3 curriculum and follow the examination specification. The course covers 4 units consisting of; The music industry, Introducing music sequencing, Introducing music recording and Managing a music product. During the course of the 2 years pupils will become familiar with using the Mac computers, music production software, microphones and musical instruments for composing, recording and editing their own music. The pupils will have the opportunity to visit a local recording studio and experience the music production industry. Other experiences include visiting a local theatre and taking part in a performance, taking on roles with sound, lighting and stage production as well as performing their own singing or musical repertoire.

Part B: Extra-curricular 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.

Students at Church Lawton have the opportunity to access extra-curricular music lessons provided by specialist peripatetic teachers from The Love Music Trust. Currently students are learning to play; guitar, keyboard, drums, cello, violin and vocal skills. However a full and wide range of instruments can be loaned and taught and the appropriate tutors from The Love Music trust arrange lessons in school time.

Instrument tuition and loans are arranged directly by parents through The Love Music Trust website <https://www.lovemusictrust.com/>

Tuition, on a one to one basis, starts from £27.25 per month with instrument hire from £3.50 per month. For students in receipt of pupil premium, school can arrange tuition and loan of instruments, subject to availability, from The Love Music Trust at no cost to the families. Please speak to staff at school if you feel that this is something that your child may wish to take up.

Pupils from KS3 to KS5 have the opportunity to join a lunchtime 'karaoke style' singing club. The aim being to encourage students to bring their own suggestions and repertoire to sing, share ideas as a group and explore their singing abilities. During the summer term they can practice performances ready to share at our Summer Festival in July.

Many of our students find music therapeutic and use it as a strategy for self-regulation and a way to de-stress. Students can participate in musical instrument practice or listen to music during formtimes, breaks, lunchtime or other therapy slots for this individual support.

Pupils undertaking 1:1 peripetetic lesson or studying towards graded exams in their chosen instrument or vocal training can also use formtimes, breaks and lunches to practice. School staff are available to facilitate this and support them.

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.

As part of the BTEC course our students visit The Clonter Opera Theatre to explore the science of theatre and what happens behind the scenes. These students also visit Fox Barn, a local recording studio to try out their production and performing skills and experience the music production industry and understand possible career pathways.

Each summer we hold a Summer Festival where students are encouraged to share their love for music by performing their vocal or instrumental talents of their choice on an outdoor stage. This event is attended by all pupils and staff across the school and parents, friends and the local community are also welcome to join us. The event is well attended and gives us the opportunity to celebrate the pupils successes and build their confidence and self-esteem.

Through The Love Music Trust our students are invited to join community music groups, orchestras and choirs outside of school hours. These are advertised on The Love Music trust website and are also highlighted in our school newsletters when the opportunities arise.

Lower school students visit a local theatre to watch a pantomime each year. We also join other schools to attend theatre orchestra performances arranged by The Love Music Trust. These have been based on the orchestral music behind some of our favourite films such as The Snowman and Wallace and Gromit, The Wrong Trousers.

School ensemble groups, musicians or vocal groups perform on the school stage at the Cheshire County Show coached and supported by the teachers from The Love Music trust and school staff.

In the future

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

In the academic year 2024/25 we are aiming to restructure music lessons in lower school to ensure that alongside the teaching of musical knowledge and skills students have access to an ensemble session each week. This will be focussed on learning musical numbers to perform both vocally and using instruments. Students will explore a range of genre to develop an understanding of what their musical preferences are. Students will be given the opportunity to perform at school events with student and parent audiences.

Upper school will have access to the karaoke club where they can practice and explore a range of music styles with a view to performance at school events. We are hoping to be able to extend this experience to offer a lower school lunchtime club of a similar nature.

In the past we have had a school band. A number of students who played drums, keyboards, guitar and bass guitar joined together to practice and perform at events. This was facilitated by school staff and tutored by a teacher from The Love Music Trust. We are looking to re-instate this with pupils from our current cohort.

We are exploring more opportunities to take some of the children out into the community to perform at local events such as The Cheshire Show.

We are fortunate that there are a number of theatres local to school and we are aiming to increase the number of opportunities for the pupils to experience different musical events over the course of the year.