

Music development plan summary: Church Lawton School.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	January 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 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
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, 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.

Church Lawton School is proud to be a Music Mark School in recognition of a commitment to providing a high-quality music education for all children and young people for 2024-2025.

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 and 5, 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 4/5 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.

This academic year, 2024/25, we have restructured 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 is 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.

EYFS, KS1 and KS2 also join together with other special schools across Cheshire on a monthly online live music lesson led by The Love Music Trust called 'Music Makers.' The lessons have different curriculum themes and promote opportunities to experience a wide variety of genres of music. Pupils can participate in singing, playing instruments and dance, whilst collaborating and interacting with peers at the other special schools.

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 along with music theory. 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 supported and guided by staff members. 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 peripatetic 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 our life skills and careers curriculum KS4 and 5 students visit The Clonter Opera Theatre to explore the science of theatre and what happens behind the scenes. These students including those studying BTEC Music technology 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 to perform.

This academic year, for the first time, our primary and middle school pupils (EYFS to KS3) have practiced and performed a Christmas Nativity play including a variety of ensemble vocal and musical numbers. The performance utilised our newly purchased stage which gave the pupils a real performance experience. Pupils were involved with designing costumes, scenery and props. They performed to several audiences of parents and pupils and were able to showcase their talents. Pupils were excited and enthusiastic and it has inspired many of them to continue to develop their talents in singing and musical instruments or fostered a desire to begin to learn these skills. This is an event which we now repeat annually and develop further with the use of microphones, sound system and stage lighting.

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 and communications to parents as 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.

Upper school will have access to the karaoke club in the summer term 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 and 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 or The Love Music Trust Celebration concert at The Clonter Opera. We have proposed the idea of forming a collaborative choir between pupils of special schools in Cheshire. The idea being that each school learn the same song and then come together in person as a Cheshire Special School choir at the Cheshire Show to perform. The Love Music Trust are working with us to facilitate this.

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.

We are looking to improve and develop our performance facilities in school by funding the purchase of more microphones, sound system and stage lighting.

Church Lawton School are applying to be a Lead Special School for Music in Cheshire.

Further information (optional)

Church Lawton School has a partnership with the local music hub for Cheshire and Wirral provided by The Love Music Trust.

<https://www.lovemusictrust.com/>

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<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/>