

Music Development Plan Summary: Church Lawton School.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Karen Woodall / 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 achieved 2024-2025.

In 2025 Church Lawton School was selected by The Cheshire and Wirral Love Music Trust to become a Lead Special school for Music. We are fully involved with the music network with other special schools, sharing good practice, providing CPD and collaborating on a wide range of musical opportunities for pupils with SEND.

At Church Lawton School our music curriculum is designed and delivered by music subject specialist teachers from Cheshire and Wirral music hub, The Love Music Trust, alongside 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 (3 hours) 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 based on the well-researched Kodály teaching approach. It is a planned, progressive curriculum which introduces and develops the knowledge and skills required for the subject. It is a student-centred approach, and skills are taught in a logical, sequential manner, building on pupils prior knowledge, allowing time for skills to be embedded and for pupils to practise and refine their understanding. Musical concepts are taught creatively and collaboratively through class-group music lessons.

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.

EYFS, KS1 and KS2 also join with other special schools across Cheshire on a monthly online music lesson led by The Love Music Trust called 'Makers of Music.' The lessons have different curriculum themes and promote opportunities to experience a wide variety of genres of music. Themes and songs are publicised in advance allowing classes to prepare for the session with resources, send in their ideas and then fully interact. Pupils can participate in singing, playing instruments and dance, whilst collaborating and working inclusively with peers at other special schools.

At Key Stage 4 students undertake a programme of study to complete NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award 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 5 units consisting of; Introduction to music Technology and the music industry; The digital audio workstations (DAW); Musical elements, musical style and music technology; Sound creation; Multitrack recording. Over the course of the 2 years pupils will become familiar with using the Mac computers, music production software – Logic Pro-X, 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.

Church Lawton school staff involved with delivering or supporting curriculum music lessons have access to CPD sessions from The Love Music Trust. These can be twilight training sessions, attending the Music Conference, or using training and resources through The Love Music Trust website.

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, brass 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 £28.41 per month with instrument hire from £3.50 per month. Or for shared tuition (2 or 3 students) from £19.21 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.

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 form times, breaks, lunchtime, or other therapy slots for this individual support. As a school we have a range of musical instruments and equipment on site that staff can support pupils to access. This includes: acoustic, electric and bass guitars, keyboards, ukuleles, drum kits, percussion instruments, microphones, amps and headphones.

Pupils undertaking 1:1 peripatetic lesson or studying towards graded exams in their chosen instrument or vocal training can also use form times, 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 NCFE 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, Love Music Trust staff and the local community are also welcome to join us. The event is well attended and gives us the opportunity to celebrate the pupil's successes and build their confidence and self-esteem to perform.

Each year 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. Our secondary pupils asked if they could have a drama and music lunchtime club. The performance utilises our newly purchased stage which gives the pupils a real performance experience. Pupils are involved with designing costumes, scenery and props. They do several performances to different audiences of parents and pupils and are able to showcase their talents. Pupils have been excited and enthusiastic, and it has inspired many of them to continue to develop their talents in singing and musical instruments, fostering a desire to learn these skills. This is an event which we repeat annually and have developed further with the use of microphones and a sound system. In the future we hope to purchase stage lighting to further enhance this stage experience.

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. One, fully inclusive opportunity, is the 'Side by side orchestra'. The Love Music Trust tutors coach the pupils and guide them in performing as an orchestra. Pupils from mainstream schools and pupils from SEND schools play together 'side by side,' supporting and encourage each other.

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. Secondary students attended a school's performance of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra at Dock 10 studio, Media City, Salford. This will become an annual visit for the students.

Pupils from lower school Y1-7 attended The Love Music Trust SEND Day at Congleton Town Hall. Pupils joined together with pupils from other special schools from across the area for a day of musical and vocal workshops culminating in a collaborative performance including all the pupils attending.

School ensemble groups, musicians or vocal groups perform on the Love Music Trust's school stage at the Royal Cheshire County Show coached and supported by the teachers from The Love Music trust and school staff. Pupils who are not involved with performing are encouraged to attend and be part of the audience for our performers.

During the summer of 2026 we were privileged to be asked to be part of a research project led by Professor Smith at Chichester University. The Clem Burke Drumming Project set out to research the therapeutic value of drumming for Autistic pupils and gather evidence on their enjoyment, engagement and well-being through the project. As a school we were funded by the university and Rowland music and received electronic drum kits and small group drumming tuition for 12 pupils for 10 weeks. The project ended with the pupils showcasing their talents in a performance for staff, parents, peers and VIP's including Josh Davine, drummer for One Direction. This experience was incredibly valuable for the pupils. They all showed enthusiasm and engagement in the drumming lessons, developing their skills, confidence and self-esteem. Pupils reported that it helped them to regulate and have a positive attitude to learning across the school day. Pupils were incredibly proud of their achievements especially after the performance. They were also able to showcase their performance at the Royal Cheshire County Show.

Following this experience many of the pupils have continued drumming lessons either in school or at home. Other pupils not involved with the project have since been inspired to try drumming and are accessing lessons. It is hoped that we will be involved in another Clem Burke Drumming Project this academic year.

In the future

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

As our school grows in numbers we are undertaking a building expansion project. It is hoped that as an interim measure we can re-use some office space to become a dedicated music room. This will allow musical instruments and equipment to be set up ready in a space where small groups of students can have lessons or rehearse. This space can also be accessed at breaks or form time to allow pupils music therapy. In the future it is hoped that we can develop our building to create a much larger space for music with a dedicated performance space, music recording and broadcasting studio, lesson, and rehearsal space.

Development of opportunities for lunchtime clubs to include a singing, performing club where students can practice and explore a range of music styles, linking with those

interested in drama with a view to performance at school events and concerts. They will be able to utilise our stage, microphones, and PA equipment however we would like to develop these facilities further with the addition on stage lighting.

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 Love Music Trust SEND day, The Royal Cheshire County 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. These experiences will include further visits to the BBC at Media City for the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra Schools concerts.

We are hoping that another cohort of pupils will be invited to part of The Clem Burke Drumming research project for 2027.

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/>