

Music development plan summary: The Cowplain School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	24-25
Date this summary was published	September 24
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 25
Name of the school music lead	Sue Dobbyn
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lis Zambo
Name of local music hub	Hampshire Music Service
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, co-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 students' 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.

The Music Curriculum at The Cowplain School has been carefully planned to take into account the recommendations from national guidance and other findings from research, as well as fulfilling the curriculum strands of our own school's curriculum model. We are thrilled to be offering our students curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities in our brand new, purpose-built Music Centre, for this first time this academic year.

In Years 7 and 8, students receive one hour of music lessons per week. The Year 7 curriculum covers musical elements, learning to read and write music, composition and performing skills. Topics include War and Peace and Music in the Media. All students are taught basic keyboard skills, including playing from the treble and bass clefs concurrently. In Year 8, more advanced analytical methods are taught alongside the development of performing skills within the Blues genre. Historical perspectives give students the opportunity to explore how music has developed over hundreds of years and lessons are predominantly practical in nature.

Throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, the topic entitled My Music is taught. This gives our students the opportunity to refine their skills through the exploration of repertoire which they choose according to their own tastes and preferences.

In Year 9, students complete a foundation year for GCSE Music which further develops their listening, performing and composing skills. They receive four hours a fortnight. All are taught how to use the Sibelius notation software and our recent moderator feedback commented on the confidence our students demonstrate with this, allowing them to develop the musical understanding still further. They have the opportunity to undertake the Bronze Arts Award as part of the curriculum and regularly undertake independent and group work as part of their lessons.

In Years 10 and 11, the full OCR GCSE Music syllabus is covered and explored. Students receive five hours a fortnight, with an additional forty minute lesson for Year 11 students after school (Period 6). They complete all of their NEA (Controlled Assessments) in Year 11 and undertake practice versions in Year 10.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Outside of the curriculum, students have the opportunity to take instrumental and vocal lessons, which all take place after school. The lessons are either with teachers from Hampshire Music Service or self-employed peripatetics. Lessons can be individual, pairs or small groups and last from 15- 30 minutes, depending on the need. Currently our offer is: Clarinet, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Piano, Electric/ acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar, Singing, Drum Kit, Violin, Viola and Cello. There is a charge for these lessons and information is sent home to parents outlining this.

There are weekly rehearsals for the following ensembles: Contemporary Vocal Group, Jukebox (covers band) and Production Band. We work with the Drama and Dance departments annually to produce a show, which this year is Fame. For this the Production Band play all of the music live and rehearsals are more frequent, including some weekends. Students are also encouraged to form their own bands and the facilities are available for them to rehearse at break time and on some afternoons after school.

There is a weekly Music Theory club after school where students are taught the content for the ABRSM theory grades. They can also use this for GCSE support and revision.

All of our co-curricular opportunities are open to all students in every year group and no audition is necessary as our desire is to be fully inclusive.

Part C: Musical experiences

We are constantly seeking opportunities for our students to experience music outside of the school environment as performers and audience members. We take the Vocal Group and Jukebox to perform at the Royal Albert Hall each November as part of the

Music for Youth prom. They also perform in concerts at school, which occur termly and the Production Band accompany the Vocal Group. We run charity bands nights which give student- led bands the opportunity to perform to a receptive audience and we also enter the Portsmouth Music Festival every year (Rock and Pop section) with Jukebox and any other bands who wish to compete.

We undertake work with our Partner Primary schools and, in the past, have staged a huge collaborative event at a local theatre with up to the three hundred pupils and students.

Students who require financial support are identified and we work with parents to try to ensure that no child is disadvantaged as a result of their income.

In the future

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

In the future we are planning to re-introduce our Explore project with our Partner Primary Schools. We are also looking to develop our music technology offer at Key Stage 3 and have started a partnership with Hampshire Music Service to assist us with this.

We have plans to take our Jukebox students to Germany again as part of the local Twinning Association.

We will continue to strive for musical excellence and be energetic in the pursuit of opportunities that arise.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.