

Keswick School Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	4 th September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	2 nd June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr Rory McDonald
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss Sophie French (AHT, line manager)
Name of local music hub	Cumbria Music Hub
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 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.

Music Curriculum

KS3 Music:

All students in Key Stage 3, including those with SEND, have one hour of music lessons per week in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9.

Students are taught in form groups and study Music throughout the academic year (not in a carousel).

The Music curriculum is an ambitious curriculum which builds on the Model Music Curriculum. The schemes of work throughout KS3 are designed to ensure that students are engaged, enthused, and enriched in their studies and to support progression for every young person who wants to pursue music beyond the curriculum. To this end, the KS3 curriculum prepares students for the demands of GCSE whilst providing a curriculum that stimulates and generates

a life-long intellectual curiosity, creativity, and love for the Creative Arts, besides nurturing holistic, transferable (and employability) skills for all.

Our curriculum is based around three pillars of progression:

Technical - Enabling students to translate their intentions successfully into sound through developing instrumental technical skills, building confidence in and controlling their voice and building music technology skills.

Constructive - Developing students' knowledge and understanding of the elements of music and how they relate and build together to form musical composition.

Expressive - Developing the quality of the music, the creative process and students' knowledge of musical meanings across the world and time.

Our curriculum supports students in developing the pillars above through progressively building knowledge and skills in the following key concepts:

Singing - Developing confidence in the voice and control over pitch and rhythm in small groups and individually. Exploring working with multiple parts and harmonisations.

Musicianship - Understanding the elements of music in a theoretical and practical sense. Using MADTSHIRT to explore key concepts and progressing towards shaping all music making inherently with these building blocks both in performance and composition.

Performing - Developing good routines of practising, rehearsing, recording, and evaluating whilst playing instruments (keyboard, ukulele, guitar) and developing good technique.

Progressing towards excellent technical control and fluency as well as togetherness and working well as a group.

Composing - Building students' confidence to express themselves freely through music and developing the tools needed to output this music to the wider world through notation, use of music technology, live performance/ improvisation, representation of sounds through symbols.

Critical Listening - Encouraging students to actively engage with the music around them and not just listen passively. Encouraging the aural identification of the musical elements, orchestral instrument families, textures of compositions, pop and rock instruments, musical structures and encouraging students to be able to give an opinion on the music they are hearing and explore the feelings and emotions the music invokes in them.

Beyond the key areas above, students also complete a series of homework assignments which help them engage with the history and chronology of music and compare a diverse range of musical styles whilst being encouraged to think about their social and cultural significance to the world around them. Students also gain experience and knowledge of Western classical music and music from a range of musical traditions. This is in conjunction with a wider cultural context of the genre and era relevant to students, referenced to cross-curricular learning.

KS4/5 Music:

In Key Stage 4, OCR GCSE music is offered and in Key Stage 5 we currently deliver the RSL Music Practitioners Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma which is a vocational subject equivalent to 1.5 A Levels.

Students are taught for 5 hours per fortnight at GCSE and 10 hours per fortnight at Level 3.

Students also have access to areas outside of the school day by arrangement.

As well as the computer room with music software, students have access to a recording studio equipped with professional level equipment.

There are opportunities to experience live performances, for example, GCSE students watching the Halle orchestra in October and free tickets for students to attend Keswick Music Society's concert programme.

A summary of the school's music curriculum map for each Key Stage can be found here:

<https://www.keswick.cumbria.sch.uk/curriculum/music>

Students are regularly given the opportunity to help organise and run school events. This includes technical support at concerts. Students are coached in how to provide sound reinforcement, lighting and camera work.

The school has links with other local organisations such as Fluid productions, The Gather at Ennerdale and Massif Music Studios who regularly provide opportunities for training and work experience in the arts.

Part B: Co-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.

Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

Music Tuition

Keswick School has a strong tradition of music making and has many groups with which students can get involved. The music department has a large, highly qualified and experienced number of specialist instrumental teachers who visit the school during the week to give tuition on an individual (sometimes paired) basis. Pupils have the opportunity to begin learning to play an instrument or to continue studying an instrument they already learn.

Tuition is available on:

Violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, french horn, trumpet, cornet, trombone, euphonium, tenor horn, tuba, piano, classical, acoustic, electric and bass guitar, ukulele, percussion/drum kit, voice and music theory.

Fees and number of lessons

Weekly lessons are charged termly in advance. A lesson normally lasts either 20 or 30 minutes. An individual 20 minute lesson is £11.50 and an individual 30 minute lesson is £17.25, payable directly to the teacher at the start of the term. There will be a minimum of 30 lessons delivered across the academic year. Fees for grade examinations (optional and if required, an accompanist) and music are extra.

NB: There is no charge for pupil premium students and those doing GCSE music during the Autumn and Spring term of Year 11.

Tuition arrangements

Tuition is arranged during the school day, normally on a rota basis, so that the student will not miss the same timetabled period more than once or twice a term. Experience has shown that this causes no detriment to the pupils' general progress, which is closely monitored.

Practice and ensemble playing

Playing a musical instrument is only pleasurable when progress is maintained and it is therefore essential that pupils are willing to practise daily and that parents will support this commitment. As a rough guide, a beginner should not be doing less than 5 sessions of at least 20 mins every week. An advanced pupil may need to do between 45 minutes and an hour every day.

Students will be expected to join a suitable ensemble and the benefits of them doing so will be enormous. It will enable them to experience the enjoyment of playing with others and increase their musicianship as well as enabling them to get to know other musicians in other years and forms.

Ensembles

There are a number of ensembles which students can get involved with:

Choir (all abilities and stages), advanced singing group, stage band (grade 4 plus), junior string group, advanced string group, brass ensemble, guitar ensemble, school musical band, student led pop/ rock bands, music production group.

Progress outside of school hours

The music centre is available to students to come and practice during lunch and break times as well as many days after school.

Students are encouraged to join youth ensembles promoted by Cumbria Music Hub. They are also regularly informed of training days and workshops provided by the Cumbria Music Hub and the development sessions run by Soundwave.

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.

Musical events and performances

Musical events programme

Students have opportunities to perform at school events across each term. These take place both in and out of school. A typical school concert programme is outlined below:

AUTUMN TERM – School prizegiving, young musician of the year, carol concert, Keswick Victorian Fayre

SPRING TERM – Spring concert, KS5 night

SUMMER TERM – School musical, iPerform week (band night)

Other musical opportunities

Singing assemblies have recently been reintroduced into the life of the school and this will continue to grow moving forward.

All students have the opportunity to attend professional concerts put on by the Keswick Music Society free of charge.

The whole school attends the Carol concert in December which is a wonderful celebration of the creative arts subjects. Students are also encouraged to attend the iPerform week as a member of the audience if they are not performing.

GCSE students have the opportunity to travel to Manchester and watch the Halle orchestra perform.

In the future

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

Moving forward, we plan to keep increasing our student participation numbers in music making. We aim to have more students involved in both ensembles and in instrument tuition. We are also hoping to reintroduce A Level music and music technology in our Level 3 provision.

We already provide a robust concert programme for our students but we hope to be more outward looking in these events and further our engagement with the local community around us.

We aim to provide an opportunity for every student in our school to attend a professional concert each year they are with us.

We hope to engage with RNCM outreach programmes currently taking place in conjunction with Cumbria music hub.