

Music Development Plan Summary: Caldew School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Dotty Forrest
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Yvonne Nordon
Name of local music hub	Cumbria Music Hub

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.

At KS3, pupils have an hour of classroom music per week. During these lessons, students use a variety of instruments to include drum kits, keyboards, ukuleles, guitars (both acoustic and electric) and bass guitar. Group work and band projects include singing.

Whole class teaching is focused on keyboard throughout KS3, however, students also receive whole class teaching on drum kit in year 7 and ukuleles in years 7 and 8. Project work in years 8 and 9 allows students to explore other instruments such as guitars and bass guitar; this is supported by direct teaching and materials such as Musical Futures Online that students use to learn guitar chords and bass guitar notes.

At KS4, we deliver Eduqas GCSE Music. Students receive two hours of classroom teaching in year 10 and three hours in year 11. Direct instrument or vocal tuition is delivered by peripatetic teachers either in school or by arrangement by pupils with other teachers outside of school.

Until recently, A Level Music was offered as a post-16 qualification. Pupils having peripatetic music lessons in school can access a variety of graded exams from boards such as ABRSM, Trinity and RSL.

Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

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.

Peripatetic music tuition is delivered weekly by a variety of teachers, both from the county music service and freelance practitioners on the following instruments:

Piano

Voice

Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone)

Guitar (electric, acoustic and bass)

Drums

We can source tuition in other instruments such as brass and strings with sufficient interest from pupils to make it viable.

Lesson costs at present are as follows (subject to change):

£13.25 per 30-minutes

£6.80 per 30-minutes for a group lesson (two or more pupils)

Our GCSE students are strongly encouraged to have one to one lessons on an instrument/voice. Instead of being charged per lesson, their lessons cost a flat rate of £95 per term. For all lessons, parents and carers will have a balance on iPayimpact that shows the total cost for the academic year, and this is allocated as termly payments. Payment options are available on request and cheques are also accepted. Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium funding can request this to cover the costs of their tuition.

We run three school choirs that pupils can join - Junior Choir (KS3), Senior Choir (KS4 and 5) and Full Choir (all years). There is also Wind Band/Orchestra. Rehearsals take place during lunch to allow access particularly for our pupils who live in rural areas where they are reliant on school transport. There is an after-school Rock Club for KS4 pupils, run by one of our peripatetic teachers, and we are planning on starting something similar for our KS3 pupils.

Alongside this, we have several 'bands' and groups that pupils have set up, who can book one of the music spaces to rehearse at lunchtimes.

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.

The school organises gigs for our bands and vocalists at The Source in Carlisle. These take place at least twice a year. There is also a yearly Christmas concert at St Michael's Church in Dalston and a summer concert. Other opportunities for performance arise throughout the year to include open evening and our summer awards events.

In the future

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

In the future, we would like to offer a vocation option at post-16 such as the BTEC Music Foundation Diploma. We are also exploring other qualifications such as the Arts Award.

Future plans include entering pupils into the local competitive Drama and Music festival and organising trips to see live music performances.