

Music development plan summary: Chulmleigh College

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	13 th February 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st February 2027
Name of the school music lead	Richard Miners
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Emily Morgan
Name of local music hub	Devon Music Education 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.

Students at Chulmleigh College receive a 1hr lesson at KS3 each week which is delivered by a specialist music teacher. At KS4 students receive 5 hours of teaching across a two-week timetable.

Students at KS3 follow a balanced Music Curriculum which reflects the Model Music Curriculum. Class lessons focus on the three core music skills of Performing, Composing and Listening.

During curriculum lessons students can access a wide range of musical resources and instruments. Keyboards and percussion are widely used throughout KS3 and students have access to a newly installed suite of Mac computers running Logic Pro software. Students use these IT resources to create effective musical compositions covering various genres.

Each year group has at least one six week unit per year which focusing on Whole Class Instrumental Playing. Classes create ensemble music based on either the Steel Pan Tradition, African Music and Music from South America.

The KS3 curriculum follows a spiral pathway, which keeps reenforcing key skills. Units of work are chosen that also help prepare students for KS4 if they choose to progress their learning.

Where students already learn an instrument, they are encouraged to use these in their class lessons.

Music is a highly practical subject at KS3 and students are encouraged to share their work with their peers and perform as small groups where appropriate.

Tasks are accessible for all and differentiated to allow access for all students.

At KS4 students follow the AQA Music GCSE Syllabus which focuses heavily on the core Musical Elements. Pupils follow a balanced curriculum that prepares them for individual composition tasks, performing and understanding of music when listening.

The course is split in the following way:

Performing 30% (which is also covered with students by their instrumental tutors)

Composing 30%

Listening and Understanding 30%

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.

At Chulmleigh we have over 120 pupils currently having 1:1 instrumental lessons. Our team of seven visiting instrumental teachers work with these pupils each week delivering 30 minute individual lessons. We currently offer tuition on the following instruments:

- Piano
- Keyboard
- Brass
- Woodwind
- Strings
- Guitar
- Percussion/Drum Kit

- Voice

We want as many pupils as possible to be able to access instrumental lessons therefore pupils that qualify for Pupil Premium will receive a minimum of 50% funding towards every lesson. Where possible the school also provides support by lending instruments for use by pupils during their time at school and working with DMEH to loan instruments where needed. Students are encouraged to use the Music Department facilities at lunch and break times to practice their instruments or to work in small ensemble groups.

In conjunction with the DMEH the school facilitates and runs the Chulmleigh Music Academy. This is open to all school students and to KS2 and above pupils from surrounding schools. This is held weekly after school and allows pupils to join to form varying types of ensembles. This music centre is staffed by the school Music Lead and supported by a strong team of the schools visiting music teachers. Pupils work in instrumental groups such as Strings, Brass, Woodwind and Vocal as well as joining together to form varying larger ensembles such as an orchestra, jazz band, and Rock Choir. We currently have around 80 pupils attending this, with a good mixture from all year groups as well as from our Primary Feeder Schools.

As part of the Tutor Group timetable, all Year 7 Pupils join together for 30 minutes a week to form a massed choir (150 students). This is led by our school vocal teacher and school music lead. It is intended to be a fully inclusive opportunity that not only develops singing but also the experience of working in a large cohesive group. The Year 7 Choir are often joined by school instrumentalist to give the feeling of working with live musicians.

We are constantly trying to establish links with our local community and over the last year this has included musically supporting the Chulmleigh Old Fair as well as the Little Dart mission.

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.

We are always looking for opportunities for our musicians to be able to perform. Currently varying groups all perform in each end of term assembly, playing in front of over 750 pupils from the school.

All pupils attend a yearly Harvest Service in Chulmleigh Church where they are encouraged to sing as part of the service. Singing is supported by our school choir and often by instrumentalists. Each Christmas, a carol service is held in the Church attended by all members of the school. The carols are again supported by our school choir, and this will also feature performances by various school instrumental ensembles.

Three times a year the school runs an evening music concert which is open to be attended by family, friends and visitors. These concerts take varying forms and feature school ensembles and choirs, as well as individual soloists and groups who have been prepared by the schools' team of visiting instrumental teachers. These events are well attended and supported by the school community. Last year saw the introduction of a Summer outside festival of Music, with ensembles performing in a more relaxed setting in the School grounds.

The school also works closely with DMEH which allows our pupils to access events and opportunities organised by the Hub. We also support the work of the Hub by hosting various workshops and performance opportunities which have recently included pupils working with the Devon based Sonopera group looking at composition skills and developing pupils for KS4 as well as hosting a DMEH Future Musicians day where over 100 primary and secondary musicians from local schools gathered together to form a large ensemble.

As a school we see it as a vital part of a pupil's musical education that they are given opportunities to perform to not only their peers but also to the wider community.

In the future

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

- In July 2025 the school was appointed as Lead School Of Music by the DMEH, this has given us a chance to work with other lead schools to promote and advocate for music in Devon. This is ongoing for the next 3 years and already collaborative events with the DMEH are being created with the school leading the event, and working to provide opportunities for other North Devon Schools.
- After a complete curriculum renewal in September 2025, the new scheme of work continues to be refined and embedded to allow pupils to receive a broad and balanced music curriculum offer at KS3 and KS4.
- The music department is looking now to work more closely with other Expressive Arts Subjects to run joint events and initiatives including whole school musicals and shows. In order to facilitate this research is being

undertaken to create a performance venue that is fit for purpose, that not only can be used by the school but by the wider community.

- At the start of the 25/26 academic year, the music department introduced a new suite of Apple computers running Logic Pro software. This has started to allow a broader range of pupils to access music in different ways. It is now hoped that this investment in technology can be enhanced with a small recording studio. In the future this may lead to being able to offer a wider range of music offers at KS4.