

# Music development plan: Holy Cross High School, Chorley.

## Overview

| Detail                                                                             | Information          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers                                             | 2026-27              |
| Date this summary was published                                                    | 02/09/2026           |
| Date this summary will be reviewed                                                 | 02/09/2027           |
| Name of the school music lead                                                      | Beth Watson          |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Kat Hitchen          |
| Name of local music hub                                                            | Lancashire 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.

- Pupils in Year 7 receive 1 hour per week of music.
- Year 8 pupils receive 1 hour per fortnight of music.
- Year 9 pupils receive 1 hour per fortnight of music for A band and 1 hour per week for B band.
- GCSE Music is offered as an option and pupils receive 5 hours per fortnight. The school follows the Eduqas course for GCSE music.
- Pupils are supported to engage with external examinations with ABRSM, Rock School and LAMDA to support their studies.
- The KS3 curriculum is inspired by the model music curriculum in that the units are carefully sequenced to support mastery of the key musical skills of performance, composition and appraising. Pupils are taught to read traditional and graphic notation. Pupils learn to create music from existing motifs and build

to their own original content. Pupils learn keyboard skills, melody, accompaniment and performing hands together.

- Pupils learn rhythm through percussion, chords through keyboard and stringed instruments, and melody through keyboard, stringed and voice.
- Pupils learn to critically appraise music, expanding their use of music vocabulary and accurate identification in chosen repertoire.
- Pupils additionally follow a separate listening curriculum to allow pupils to engage with music across a wide range of genres and traditions.
- Pupils are taught to sing and engage in vocal work through their timetabled music lessons, along with singing in assemblies which is established as part of the collective worship of the school.
- The school has developed links with Lancashire Music Hub who support the school with CPD and training days. The link with the hub is to be expanded this year.

## 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.

- Historically, the school has had a choir comprising of approximately 30 pupils. The choir has performed at numerous events in the previous academic year including Open Evening, Carol Concert, Local Care Homes, The SVP Afternoon Tea for the local community and Summer Serenade.
- The school has a number of rock bands which are supported by the school for tuition and resources. These ensembles have been given the opportunity to perform at public events also and this will be expanded this academic year.
- The school offers instrumental lessons including guitar, piano, singing, and drums for pupils as an enrichment activity within the school day. Orchestral instrument lessons are supported by Lancashire Music Hub. This is subsidised by the school as the governors recognise the vital role the school plays in enhancing the wider development of each child, providing a sense of belonging and allowing each child to thrive. Additionally, PP pupils are able to access instrumental lessons free of charge. These lessons are all currently individual lessons.
- The school has practice rooms which are used by pupils for practise and is able to provide some pupils with instruments for practice at home, should the family be unable to source their own instrument independently.

## 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.

- Pupils sing every day in assembly which is an established part of collective worship.
- Pupils hear music each morning in the school hall to start the day.
- A number of concerts are planned for the pupils to perform in school for this year including Christmas Concert, Band Night, Summer Concert and “A Night At The Musicals”. All of these concerts will be for all year groups, and non participants will also be able to be members of the audience.
- A wide range of extracurricular ensembles are planned including choir, year 7 choir, harmony group, ukulele club, rock band night and a signing choir. The latter is in collaboration with the SEND department as we look to support all pupils in our community, removing barriers to learning and helping all thrive.
- Additionally trips are planned to visit the Royal Northern College of Music to see concerts and tour the facilities. A trip is also planned to watch a musical. Both of these trips will provide pupils with an opportunity to engage with live music, meet musicians and provide employer encounters to broaden pupils views of potential careers in the music industry.
- All Year 9 pupils will attend a theatre production as part of the school’s minimum offer to watch ‘Blood Brothers’ which will include a live orchestra and live singing.

## In the future

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

- Increase opportunities for pupils to engage with music outside of the classroom through the wide range of ensembles on offer.
- Increase opportunities for pupils to engage with music outside of the classroom through an expanded offer of trips/workshops/opportunities to hear live music.
- Develop curriculum offer to further support pupils in developing skill on an instrument, with wider opportunities to access additional qualifications in music through instrument performance exams.
- Further develop the curriculum at KS3 to build listening and appraising skills, along with notation reading from Year 7.
- Build stronger links with feeder primary schools to support the transition from KS2 to KS3.