

Music development plan summary: Cowley Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	10 th March 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Emily Sanderson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jack Brindley
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

By the end of Key Stage 3, students should play confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using their voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy and expression. They will have developed a solid understanding of theory, improvisation and composition and have the tools to develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres and traditions. Learners will have developed skills that allow them to listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians, developing a deepening understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen. As well as developing themselves as musicians, students will also hone their transferable skills, such team work, leadership, communication, dependability, adaptability and resilience.

- *All students in Key Stage 3 study music for one hour a week in Years 7, 8 and two hours a week in 9. Music is also available as an option at Key Stages 4, where BTEC Music students have 3 lessons a week.*
- *Our Key Stage 3 schemes of learning are guided by the Model Music Curriculum and the National Plan for Music.*
- *All lessons and resources are adapted for all abilities and are accessed by SEND students.*
- *Key Stage 3 music lessons provide opportunities to learn about music practically, with lessons incorporating the use of music technology, singing, and learning to play a range of musical instruments such as the keyboard, ukuleles and a variety of percussion instruments. Students learn to perform both as a soloist and in an ensemble.*
- *Students are provided with opportunities for further study through the option of BTEC Music. Edexcel is the exam board.*
- *Many of our students from all key stages undertake graded exams in their chosen instruments, supported by their peripatetic teachers employed by the school, as well as private tutors and/or as part of Lincolnshire Music Service.*

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.

The music department offers a variety of opportunities for all year groups, including the school choir, which is open to all students, and dedicated KS3 and KS4 bands. The KS4 band, in particular, has the chance to perform at key school events, such as the end-of-year prom, offering students invaluable experience in live performance. In addition to these ensembles, there is a general open practice available to all students, encouraging independent music-making and peer collaboration.

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 provide a rich array of musical experiences that extend beyond the classroom and offer students valuable performance opportunities. Students can access peripatetic lessons in a range of instruments, including piano, guitar, bass, and drums, with lessons available for all levels. These lessons allow students to refine their instrumental skills and build confidence.

Additionally, the school hosts annual musical productions, such as the Christmas concert and end-of-year show, which showcase the talents of students both in a solo capacity, and through ensembles.

The school is committed to ensuring that music education is inclusive and accessible to all students. Lessons are carefully planned to support a wide range of musical abilities, with adapted resources and differentiated teaching to support students with SEND. Opportunities to participate in ensembles, clubs and performances are open to all pupils, regardless of prior experience. The department also works to reduce barriers to participation by promoting access to instruments, rehearsal spaces and musical activities so that all students can engage in music-making and develop their confidence and creativity.

In the future

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

In the future, we aim to broaden the performance opportunities available to our students by extending these beyond the school environment and into the local community. This may include performances at local venues, community events and collaborative concerts with other schools.

Through partnerships with local venues, festivals, and cultural events, we hope to offer students valuable real-world performance experiences.

There is also the exciting possibility for Cowley Academy to take part in the SLAT Music Competition in the future, providing a competitive platform for students to test their skills.

Additionally, we will look to expand opportunities for students to attend a variety of musical events and performances, allowing them to witness the breadth of the industry and inspire their own development.