

Music development plan summary: Hele's School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	16/10/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	16/10/26
Name of the school music lead	Mr Sam Jones
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Andrea Ayres
Name of local music hub	Plymouth
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Devon and Cornwall Music Hubs

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

Our music curriculum is published in each year group's curriculum overview.

Pupils have 2 hours a fortnight of specialist music teaching in Years 7 and 8, one hour a fortnight in Year 9. We cover all aspects of the National Curriculum through this delivery. Students learn to play the keyboard and are exposed to other instruments such as drums and guitar through timetabled lessons.

At Key Stage 4 students we currently have a Year 11 cohort taking GCSE music, and at Post 16 we look to offer Level 3 music courses across Westcountry Schools Trust, to include A level music and BTEC in Music.

We have a partnership with our local music hub and offer private lessons through this partnership to students in a range of instruments/ voice throughout the school day.

Through our curriculum we offer students from all Key stages the opportunity to see live musical theatre visiting the Theatre Royal Plymouth and theatres further afield.

Part B: Co-curricular music

We were awarded the Platinum Arts Mark last year demonstrating our commitment to music as part of the arts in education.

Students are offered to take up private music tuition for instruments or voice through the local music hub partnership. Brass, woodwind, piano and keyboard, drums, guitar and voice are all on offer.

These lessons are charged in blocks of 10 30 min- lessons at £75 to parents/carers. Students who receive Pupil Premium may choose to use their personal allowance to pay for all or some of these costs.

To complement this, we offer private LAMDA sessions within school to empower our learners to become confident communicators in musical theatre and performance. We offer students the option to partake in sessions and examinations in musical theatre solo and ensemble performances.

In addition, there are 2 choirs (KS3 and whole school) run by our music staff which run during Break times weekly, and there are various musical ensembles which meet after school to play and rehearse. We run KS3 bands and a KS4/5 band. Termly performances for parents give a platform to these groups, and performances in celebration assemblies also feature at KS3 and 4. Live music and dance are key features of the annual School Show, which for this academic year is Charlie and The Chocolate Factory. This participation is free of charge and runs as part of our extra-curricular offer, open to all students.

There are 2 specialist music rooms plus a suite of 4 music practice rooms which students can access outside of lesson times for rehearsing and practising either as an individual or as an ensemble.

Part C: Musical performances

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.

Key Stage 4 music ensembles (largely but not exclusively comprising the GCSE music class) perform at least 3 times a year at concerts, and individuals perform at Awards Evenings annually. We also take part in local competitions such as the West Devon Music Hub Battle of the Bands.

The School Choir perform in assemblies as well as in concerts, and music is key to the Arts Award which draws students from KS3 who have an interest in the arts, progressing in areas of their choice outside of lessons.

The Arts Award is run through Trinity College London. The bronze awards allow students to participate in Music workshops, tutorials and extended research projects. This initiative enables our students to delve into their own musical interests and prompts musical interdependence.

Termly concerts are open to all parents, for a small charge to cover the cost of facilities and equipment, and recent funding has been drawn on to start working towards a purpose-built recording studio.

This year's whole school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory will see over 100 students performing, singing or playing in the live band, across all year groups and Key Stages. Recent productions have included Wonderland (KS3,2024) Les Misérables and Fame to name a few.

In the future

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

As part of our development plan, we are looking to build on the success of this year's entry into the "Battle of the Bands" and increase the number of bands formed across school. In future we will run a Ukelele group, building on the KS3 curriculum and as new staffing settles, we will look to make best use of the local music hubs, especially around music technology.

We are exploring alternative KS4 courses to best suit our students and staffing, as our final GCSE cohort complete their course in Summer 2026.

If funding bids come to fruition we will continue to develop rehearsal and composition rooms to support with high quality provision around musical production and recording.

Further information (optional)

Peripatetic teaching is provided through IMS music; a music service that provides instrumental tutors across the Southwest of England.

Plymouth Music Education Hub support staff with training needs and inclusivity for music making

We collaborate on curriculum developments with other secondary schools in Westcountry Schools Trust

Music is a feature of the primary transition programme from Y5 to Y7, with students having input in music at the earliest possible stages.

We have plans in place to improve transition from Y6 so that instrumental lessons are not dropped at this Key Stage change.