

Music development plan summary: [Colton Hills Community School]

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss J. Loxton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss R. Jones
Name of local music hub	Wolverhampton Music Service

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

The music curriculum is delivered to everyone in KS3 for 1 hour every week in year 7 and 8 and bi-weekly in year 9. In KS4 students received 5 hours over the two-week timetable in line with commitments made to all other option subjects. The curriculum in the time we have is ambitious and covers a wide range of genres and styles with time to explore in depth and refine the associated skills through practise and rehearsal.

The focus of the curriculum, although broad and balanced is focused around becoming an expertise in instruments, not as expert in styles. This was a key take- away from a conference attended in 2022 with HMI inspector Christopher Stevens who is the Ofsted subject lead for Music. Our curriculum is therefore focused on becoming an expert in the keyboard, singing, and music technology with some exposure to world instruments and wider percussion.

As a school with extensive social-economic disadvantage the curriculum aims to address gaps through music poverty proofing. By these means we cover Western Art Music, Culture Music, Popular Genres and foundational styles such as Blues and make connections to understand their evolution and impact on political, moral and social contexts. We also offer financial support to students wishing to participate in peritectic lessons and offer these for free to any key stage 4 music students. Additionally, the school subsidises out of school opportunities where possible.

As part of our extra-curricular offer, students can take part in clubs after school weekly which are on offer to all year groups. Students involved have a minimum of 2 performance opportunities throughout the

year at both winter and summer and are also asked to take part at our open evenings, celebration evenings, our Y7 singing showcase in October, and our whole school musical in the summer term.

As students' progress through to KS4, we offer GCSE music where students will study to gain more musical experiences and a qualification in music. The specification supports progression to further and higher education in music and related subjects and provides all students with a platform to inspire a lifelong interest and enjoyment of music.

Students will study 3 Components.

C1: A written exam in understanding music

C2: Music performances of a solo and an ensemble performance

C3: Music composition to both a brief and a free composition of their choosing.

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.

Peripatetic have been taking place for three consecutive years with a partnership built with The Wolverhampton Music Service through their offer of peripatetic lessons. Colton Hills Community Schools sits central in the Wolverhampton census data for number of students taking lessons with the top schools having cohorts of 10% of the school population taking lessons. To support families with pupil premium status the lessons are heavily subsidised by the school.

Vocal work is becoming established as part of all SOW as students move through the new curriculum and understand it to be an expectation with singing featuring in parts in all lessons through vocal warm up's understanding harmony and melody, spoken word, rap, musicals and traditional singing.

Our peripatetic offer sees students able to take Woodwind, Strings, Brass and Vocal lessons weekly, with a specialised music teacher dedicated to protected time within the school day. As an ensemble, Colton Hills offers singing and opportunities to showcase work within these lessons as part of our Whole School show in the summer term and at the Y7 singing showcase in October of each year.

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.

Opportunities are more frequent, and links made in the community in Dhol lessons as students have performed externally at Diwali celebrations in the community and represented the school in front of visits from the Mayor, Celebration events and community charity and religious festivals. Dhol is an established instrument with the greatest number of students participating in regular performance opportunities. Students have the opportunity throughout the year to go to The Halls to watch orchestra performances and through the extra curricular offer, students perform a minimum of 2-3 performances per year and asked to perform at whole school events.

Peripatetic students have multiple performance opportunities throughout the year, where they perform at our Y7 music showcase and in school celebration/open evening events. These opportunities provide them with experience to perform in front of an audience which prepares them for graded examinations and gives us the opportunity to invite in parents and the community to share their growth and talent.

In the future

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

In future years, we hope to establish all year groups across KS3 having 1 hour per week of music. Our offer currently is now achievable for Year 7&8 but in the future Y9 will also be offered 1 hour per week rather than 1 per fortnight. Within lessons, with the introduction of GCSE music student will have more of an opportunity to access strings, woodwind and brass instruments as well as keyboards due to the offer of peripatetic lessons within GCSE music.

In it's now 3rd year, the school offers ensemble work in the capacity of a whole school musical in the summer term. Students can work and build ensemble singing across a variety of genres dependent on the musical chosen.

The school have a dedicated space for peripatetic lessons which in the future hopefully will be able to become a larger venue so more students can be offered tuition throughout the daytime in the same instrument as we currently have waitlists for some instruments.