The Ellesmere Port
C of E College



Music Development Plan 26-27

Policy Information:

Date prepared	Summer 2026
Adopted by Governors	Autumn 2026
Implementation Date	Immediate
Frequency of Review	Annually
Review Date	Autumn 2027

Approved by Head of School:

Mr. S Murphy

Approved by Chair of Governors:

Mr. G Derby

Frank Field Education Trust

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026–27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Miss F Anglesea
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss N England
Name of local music hub	Love Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Love Music Trust — external instrumental lesson provider

Our music department teaches pupils across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students across three areas, the music curriculum, co-curricular provision and musical experiences. We give pupils a sense of belonging through music, in line with our Be More curriculum. This summary sets out our current provision and proposed development priorities to support students, parents and careers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students musical 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.

Our music curriculum develops pupils as performers, composers and listeners, providing a clear pathway from Key Stage 3 through to GCSE and A level. We aim to ensure that every pupil feels valued within the department and can contribute to shared music-making, regardless of their starting point.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum has been carefully designed using the Model Music Curriculum as a guide, ensuring that all pupils have access to a diverse and inspiring musical education. Pupils receive two music lessons per fortnight and explore a broad range of genres and traditions through performing, composing and listening. These experiences develop their musical knowledge, understanding and practical skills. A key development priority is to strengthen curriculum sequencing so that pupils systematically revisit, consolidate and build on their learning, preparing them for further study.

Pupils study AQA GCSE Music, with teaching and assessment structured around the qualification's requirements. The curriculum develops skills in solo and ensemble performance, composition, listening and musical understanding. Pupils build on the foundations established at Key Stage 3, developing greater technical proficiency, creativity and confidence in analysing and responding to music.

Pupils can study Eduqas A level Music, extending their skills in performing, composing and appraising. The study of the Western classical tradition deepens their understanding of how music has developed over the centuries. Students develop their performance skills through preparation for a solo recital and refine their compositional techniques and creative expression. The course prepares students for further study and supports continued musical participation beyond school.

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 Ellesmere Port Church of England College, we offer an extensive programme of co-curricular music throughout the year, alongside specialist instrumental tuition and opportunities within our Be More curriculum. This provision enriches pupils' classroom learning and develops their musical skills, confidence and sense of belonging.

Instrumental tuition is delivered by Love Music Trust, with participating pupils receiving one lesson per week. Grants and funding are available to support access, helping to remove financial barriers and reflecting the College's commitment to social justice.

The Head of Music will work with Love Music Trust to ensure that information about available instruments, lesson formats, eligible year groups, applications, charges, financial support and instrument loans is clear and accessible to families. Eligibility and funding arrangements will be confirmed before publication.

A key development priority is to strengthen the relationship between instrumental tuition and classroom music through regular communication between departmental staff and visiting tutors about pupils' musical goals and progression.

Our Be More curriculum enables pupils to choose musical projects each half term, providing further opportunities to explore their interests and develop their creativity.

Our wider co-curricular programme includes Music Club, offering ensemble and solo performance workshops, alongside a band for each year group, a choir open to all year groups and an advanced vocal ensemble. These opportunities develop performance skills, confidence and collaboration, while strengthening pupils' sense of belonging within the College community.

Pupils also have opportunities to enter music theory and performance examinations through ABRSM and Rockschool, according to their instrument, chosen pathway and readiness. Examination entry arrangements, fees and available financial support will be confirmed and communicated to families, alongside club timetables, joining arrangements and information about practice spaces and supervision.

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 across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 have opportunities to experience music as performers, composers and audience members. Our established programme celebrates pupils 'musical achievements and strengthens their sense of belonging within the College and across the trust.

Pupils can develop their musical interests through our vocal ensemble, choir, rock band, Music Club, Composition Club and Theory Club. They can also audition for the annual College musical, which provides sustained opportunities to rehearse, perform and contribute to a shared production. Our Christmas showcase brings together the Music, Dance and Drama departments, enabling pupils to collaborate and celebrate the performing arts with the wider College community.

The FFET Music Festival brings together pupils from across the trust to sing, collaborate and perform. Through performances hosted at participating schools, pupils develop musical confidence, celebrate shared achievements and build connections with pupils from other trust schools. A key priority is to ensure that the annual programme provides regular performance opportunities and access to live music for pupils across all key stages.

Musical performance is a central part of the co-curricular offer at our school, with a wide variety of events held throughout the academic year. These performances showcase the talents of our pupils across all key stages and provide invaluable opportunities to develop confidence, collaboration, and musical excellence.

Our Christmas and Summer Concerts feature a diverse range of performances from instrumentalists and vocalists, both in solo and ensemble contexts. The format of these concerts evolves each year and often includes collaboration with the Drama and Performing Arts departments, making them rich, interdisciplinary celebrations of creativity.

The Summer Serenade is our flagship primary liaison concert, designed to build relationships with our local feeder primary schools. This large-scale event focuses on singing and involves our school choir performing alongside Year 5 pupils from partner primaries. Accompaniment for the event is provided by our own students, with instrumental ensembles drawn from each year group contributing to the performance.

Our GCSE and A Level Recital Evening is a formal event that allows exam pupils to present pieces from their performance repertoire. This concert consistently reflects a high standard of musicianship, with pupils performing works ranging from Grade 2 to Grade 8 across a variety of instruments and vocal disciplines. It offers a professional style setting that supports assessment while also giving students a platform to celebrate their progress with family, peers, and staff.

In the future

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

Use this space to include any information on any improvements you plan to make for subsequent years in curriculum music, co-curricular music or musical experiences, including when you plan to introduce changes.

Also consider including:

- Improve music ICT and departmental resources
- Strengthen progression across key stage 3-5
- Build belonging and widen participation
- Develop sustained musical opportunities

Further information (optional)