The Chantry School
Music Development Plan Summary

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	Mrs M Masters
Name of additional music teachers	Mrs C Foster
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss M Palmer
Name of local music hub	Herefordshire and Worcestershire Music Hub – led by Severn Arts
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.

We offer a practical curriculum of weekly one-hour lessons for Key Stage 3 in Years 7–9. Pupils study three project cycles each year, combining performing, composing, listening and appraising through instrumental, vocal and music technology-based projects. The curriculum is sequenced to build musical knowledge, technical skill, creativity and increasing independence, providing a strong foundation for further study at Key Stage 4.

At Key Stage 4, we offer the OCR GCSE Music full two-year course. Pupils develop their skills and knowledge through performing, composing and listening/appraising, building on the foundations established at Key Stage 3.

Full details of the curriculum offer at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 are available on our school website:

Key Stage 3: https://www.chantryschool.com/ks3-curriculum/

Key Stage 4: https://www.chantryschool.com/ks4-curriculum/

Teaching is responsive to pupils' starting points and needs, with appropriate scaffolding, modelling and adaptation used to remove barriers while maintaining high expectations and enabling pupils to develop increasing confidence, independence and musical expertise.

Inclusion and ambition for all

We are committed to an ambitious and inclusive music education in which all pupils are supported to participate, develop their musical knowledge and skills and experience success. High expectations are maintained for all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND, with appropriate adaptations made to remove barriers to learning and participation without limiting ambition.

We recognise that equality of opportunity requires us to consider not only what is offered, but who participates and progresses. We will therefore review participation in instrumental and vocal tuition, ensembles, performances, the school production and GCSE Music, using pupil voice and participation information to identify and address barriers or under-representation.

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.

Music is unique in the way it brings people together and our departmental ethos reflects that. Extra-curricular activities provide opportunities for pupils to participate in groups and bands. Our ethos encourages active involvement in different forms of amateur music making, developing a sense of group identity and togetherness – our Chantry Music community.

Music can play an important role in helping pupils feel part of a community and we provide

opportunities for all to create, play, perform and enjoy music across a range of ensembles and activities. These include:

- School production – This year: The Addams Family. Previous productions include Beauty and the Beast, We Will Rock You, Hairspray, Bugsy Malone, Grease, Back to the 80s and many more.
- Lunchtime clubs
- GCSE support sessions
- Vocal groups
- Instrument lessons

Music clubs are open to all pupils in the school and are free of charge. They are structured and run by experienced members of the music department team. Activities are timetabled, where possible, to enable pupils to take part in more than one opportunity. We aim to remove barriers to participation and encourage pupils from all backgrounds, including disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND, to engage in the wider musical life of the school.

Instrumental and vocal tuition outside the curriculum is available across a range of instruments through visiting specialist teachers. Parents and carers can contact the Head of Music to discuss tuition, progression routes and any available support with access or costs, including support available through Herefordshire and Worcestershire Music Hub – led by Severn Arts:

Email to: mmasters@chantryschool.com

We have a suite of practice rooms within the music department, which are available to pupils during break and lunch times (as well as break-out spaces for curriculum lessons). We have a well-equipped teaching room which supports our instrumental/vocal and music technology lessons. We also have a large school hall with stage, PA system and stage lighting for our shows and performances such as The Talent Show and school productions.

We have a recording studio within the music department and several mixing desks, PCs and laptop computers. This is used by pupils to record performances and composition work.

Part C: Musical experiences

We put on a large-scale musical or show as a Performing Arts collaboration between Drama and Music. In 2026/27, our school production is The Addams Family. Productions are open to pupils across the school and provide opportunities to participate as musicians, singers, dancers, actors, backstage crew and in sound and lighting. These experiences develop performance skills, confidence, teamwork and a strong sense of belonging. A small ticket charge helps to cover licensing and production costs.

We host performance opportunities and competitions across the year. The Talent Show is a highlight of the autumn term, with auditions leading to a final performance and opportunities for pupils to perform to a wider audience.

Our Battle of the Bands contest takes place in the summer term. This usually involves bands from all year groups with inventive names such as Stardust, Bliss, Knights of Iron and Spitfire amongst

many others.

Our hall also hosts primary school music days, where local primary-aged pupils come to The Chantry to enjoy collaborative music-making. Music contributes to wider enrichment opportunities, including Dharma Day, with world drumming sessions delivered by external specialists. We also work with sixth form colleges within the Heart of Mercia Multi-Academy Trust to raise awareness of progression routes and support transition to Level 3 courses.

Development priorities for 2026/27

During 2026/27, we will continue to build on our existing music provision, with a particular focus on widening participation, strengthening progression and ensuring that all pupils can access high-quality musical experiences.

• Widen participation in performance through the whole-school production of The Addams Family, providing opportunities for pupils to contribute as performers, musicians, singers and through backstage and technical roles.

• Strengthen vocal and ensemble opportunities so that pupils have regular opportunities to sing and make music together through vocal groups, bands and other school ensembles.

• Provide regular opportunities for pupils to perform across the academic year, including the school production, the Talent Show, Battle of the Bands and other school or community events.

• Develop opportunities for pupils to experience live music, with the aim of ensuring that pupils can engage with live performance as part of their wider musical education.

• Strengthen progression routes by signposting instrumental and vocal tuition, GCSE Music and post-16 music opportunities, working with the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Music Hub – led by Severn Arts and partners within the Heart of Mercia Trust.

• Promote equitable access to music by identifying and reducing barriers to participation and progression, particularly for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND. We will maintain high expectations for all, make appropriate adaptations where needed and seek to ensure that financial circumstances do not unnecessarily limit involvement in instrumental tuition, co-curricular music, ensembles, performances or the school production.

• Review participation and pupil voice across curriculum, co-curricular and performance opportunities to identify groups that may be under-represented and inform future development of the music offer.