

Music development plan summary: Chilwell School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	May 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr Ian Batley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr S. Crandley
Name of local music hub	Inspire Education
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: Music In The Classroom

1) Key Stage 3

Every student in Key Stage 3 studies music for the equivalent of 1 X 50 minute lesson per week in Year 7 and 8. The National Curriculum requirements are delivered in these year groups.

Students study a variety of styles, historical periods, musical concepts and theory through the development of fundamental musical skills of performance, composition and listening/appraising.

The music department is well resourced with new Yamaha keyboards (touch sensitive, weighted keys to encourage expression in performance), ukuleles, guitars, drum kits (acoustic and electric), Yamaha C1 Grand Piano, class suite of Apple iMac computers with DAW and notation software.

Full Curriculum Maps can be found on the website. [Click Here](#)

Year 9 Specialism

The Year 9 curriculum is part of Chilwell's "Specialist Option". Students can opt to study music in Year 9 before making their GCSE option choices.

The Year 9 curriculum is taught through the delivery of the Music Leaders UK Level 1 qualification.

This course is designed for students to continue to develop their musical skills whilst also developing transferable leadership skills that will benefit them in many other areas.

Assessment for this qualification is by a portfolio of evidence presented as a Google Site, including diary entries, photos, videos of practical tasks and evaluations.

For more information on the MLUK qualification [Click Here](#)

2. Key Stage 4

Music is offered at GCSE as an option for all students. However, there is an expectation that students must take an instrumental or vocal lesson for the duration of the course.

Whilst previous musical experience beyond the classroom is not essential, it is strongly recommended that students considering GCSE already play and read music notations of some sort.

Exam Board - OCR

Content

- NEA - 60% - 2 performances, 2 compositions
- Exam - 40% - Listening and Appraising based on 4 set areas of study.

For more information please [Click Here](#)

3. Post 16

Music is offered as a choice to students wanting to study at our Post 16 provision in Lakeview.

We currently offer Advanced Level music. Entry to the course is open to musicians from all backgrounds but **the ability to read traditional music notation and perform on a specialist instrument (or voice) to a high standard is essential**. Students receive 5 double lessons in Y12 and 6 double lessons in Y13 spread across the 10 day timetable.

Content

Exam Board - EDUQAS

The exact weighting of modules depends upon option choices but must consist of :

- Performance Recital - visiting examiner, concert level presentation
- Composing - 2 compositions including one to a compulsory set brief.
- Listening and Appraising - 2 Hour written exam. Based on 3 areas of study.

Currently students study - The Development of the Symphony (compulsory)

Introduction to 20th century music.

Jazz

3. Music and SEND

Music is taught as a fully inclusive experience for our students. No student is denied the opportunity to enjoy music making and we embrace physical and neurological differences in the classroom.

We will make reasonable adjustments to tasks and equipment where required. This has included purchase of ear defenders, tactile resources and ergonomic grips for equipment.

We are open to discuss any individual requirements.

Part B: Music Outside The Classroom

1. Instrumental Lessons

Every student is offered the chance to learn a musical instrument with a specialist instrumental teacher in a 1-2-1 setting.

Lessons are available on Woodwind, Piano and Keyboard, Drum Kit, Guitar and Bass Guitar, Vocal and Brass.

Lessons take place weekly in the Music Department Studios.

All staff are fully DBS cleared and qualified, working professional players in their specialist area.

Funded lessons are available for Pupil Premium students.

Administration of the lessons is completed using the Involve Education (PracticePal) system. This online system keeps parents, students and school staff fully informed about lesson times and allows parents to keep track of attendance as well as interact with their child's instrumental learning.

2. Music Activities In School

A range of opportunities exist for students to join in with music making outside the classroom.

- a) Vocal Groups – Harmonix (KS4/5) and Vox Pops (KS3) provide singing opportunities for all ages.
- b) Jazz Band – Open to instrumentalists of all types with a playing standard of around Grade 2-3 (ABRSM)
- c) School Productions – Yearly whole school production of either a full-scale musical (Annie 2025) or a theatre showcase.
- d) Christmas Concerts – In and out of school performance opportunities for groups and soloists.
- e) Practice Rooms – 3 specialist practice rooms. 1 Drum Studio suitable for small group work, 2 individual rooms with pianos. Students are welcome to the department at lunchtime and break to practice their skills.

3. Musical Opportunities and Partnerships

The Music Department actively promotes music making in the community. Students are encouraged to attend music hub activities and currently we have a number of students that play for Nottingham Youth Band and Nottingham Youth Orchestra, Blidworth Welfare Band and other community groups.

- 1) The school is the rehearsal base for the award-winning barbershop ensembles Grand Central Chorus and Gem Connection and has hosted joint concerts with GCC. We hope to expand on these partnerships in the future.
- 2) Inspire Music – The local music hub has become a valuable partner in providing instrumental opportunities to our classes. We regularly loan instruments that otherwise would be inaccessible to our students. This included a marimba and timpani, originally for a Grade 8 percussion student but also used in classes and ensembles and most recently the long-term loan of a set of steel pans. Instruments on loan are used in curriculum lessons as well as ensembles and exam groups.

- 3) Inspire Music Annual Conference – We are annual contributors to the music hub student conference. Held every year this event gives students the opportunity to work in larger ensembles and learn from industry professionals. The conference this year (2025) was focused on Musical Theatre and included vocal workshops, pit band experience, acting through song etc.

Part C – Future Plans

- 1) GCC and Gem Connection – Plan to increase our involvement with both organisations, joint concerts, promotions etc.
- 2) KS3 Calypso/GCSE ROTW module – Utilise the steel pans on loan from Inspire to include a KS3 module on Calypso and to enhance the understanding of the style at GCSE level in preparation for the Calypso question in the GCSE exam.
- 3) The University of Nottingham – The Head of Music in school is also the Professional Conductor of The University of Nottingham Symphonic Wind Orchestra, plan to partner with BLOWSOC to attend/stream lunchtime concerts into school. Also to bring smaller BLOWSOC groups to present the free LTC in our theatre.
- 4) Future productions – 25/26 is likely to be a showcase year.
- 5) European tour – plan to take vocal ensembles on a concert tour around Paris area in the next two years.

6)

Part D - Useful Links

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Music Hub – providers of instrumental and ensemble opportunities in schools.

Music for Everyone – providers of lessons and instrumental opportunities to all ages including the Nottingham Youth Band.

Grand Central Chorus – Barbershop Chorus

Gem Connection – Female Barbershop Chorus