

Music development plan summary:

Coombe Dean School

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	Mr. Neil Kay (Head of Music)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr. Charlie Jacks (Deputy Headteacher)
Name of local music hub	Devon

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.

This section addresses the content taught during lesson time, the duration dedicated to music lessons, and the music qualifications or awards that pupils can attain.

An overview of the music curriculum for each year group is available on the Coombe Dean School website.

The music curriculum focuses on the three pillars of music:

- performance
- composition
- understanding.

These elements are integrated into our teaching framework, with adaptations to suit our learners and our specific educational setting.

Year 7 One hour per week	
Unit 1 – Pop ‘Till You Drop Understanding the elements of music and how they relate to different popular music styles. Practical focus - group singing performance Element focus – melody, pitch and rhythm	Unit 2 – Monkeys and Mallets Exploring rhythmic and textural composition through Balinese Gamelan. Practical focus - group singing performance Element focus –rhythm, texture and structure
Unit 3 – ABC...Easy as 123! Understanding conventional notation and symbols and being able to notate pitches and rhythms. Practical focus – Transcribing pitch and rhythm Element focus – pitch and rhythm	Unit 4 – Roll Over Beethoven Exploring solo performance and instrumental technique through classical music Practical focus – solo keyboard performance Element focus – timbre, tempo, melody
Year 8 One hour per week	
Unit 5 – Soul Train Exploring melody and vocal performance through Soul Music Practical focus - group singing performance Element focus – melody, pitch and rhythm	Unit 6 – Describe the Vibe! Exploring timbre and composition through descriptive/programme music Practical focus - group composition Element focus – tempo, dynamics, structure and timbre
Unit 7 – DEF...Easy as 456! Understanding conventional notation and symbols and being able to notate pitches and rhythms. Practical focus – Transcribing pitch and rhythm Element focus –pitch and rhythm	Unit 8 – Traditional Music Through Time Exploring solo performance and instrumental technique through music from the Baroque and romantic periods. Practical focus – solo keyboard performance Element focus – timbre, tempo, melody

Year 9 Carousel – one hour per week for 19 weeks (half of the academic year)	
Unit 9 – Carnival! Exploring rhythmic and textural composition through Brazilian samba. Practical focus - group composition and performance Element focus – rhythm, texture, structure and timbre	Unit 10 – Bardcore Bops Exploring solo performance and instrumental technique through music of the middle ages Practical focus – solo keyboard performance Element focus – timbre, tempo, melody

The Year 9 curriculum also offers the opportunity for students to attend a weekly Music Extension Group as an addition to their regular curriculum lesson. This group runs for 1 hour per week for the entirety of the academic year and is open to all students. Students who are keen on the idea of studying Music at GCSE Level are encouraged to join this group.

KS4 (Years 10 and 11)

In Years 10 and 11, students undertake the **Eduqas GCSE Music qualification**.

[The qualification specification can be found by clicking here.](#)

KS4 5 hours per fortnight	
Performing Music A solo and an ensemble piece totalling a minimum of 4 minutes. Students may submit more than two shorter pieces. Focus on developing musicality, instrumental or vocal technique and expressive, communicative performing.	Composing Music Two newly-composed pieces including one to a brief from the exam board. Focus on creative development, highly effective use of the musical elements and accuracy of style, structure and character.
Appraising Music Exploring the elements of music through the areas of study; Forms and Devices, Music for Ensembles, Film Music and Pop Music. Analysing two set work pieces (<i>Africa</i> by Toto and Bach's <i>Badinerie</i>) and developing listening and appraising skills as well as pitch and rhythm transcription.	

KS5 (Years 12 and 13)

In Years 12 and 13, students undertake the RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners (Performance Pathway).

[The qualification specification can be found by clicking here.](#)

KS5 5 hours per week	
Unit 303 – Arranging Music Creating and recording musical arrangements of a given piece for a variety of industry briefs including TV credits, radio singles and storyboards.	Unit 310 – Composing Lyrics Exploring lyric writing techniques, creating lyrics to accompany a given theme and melody and analysing the suitability of their lyrics.
Unit 349 – Planning a Career in Music Analysing own musical skills and creating development plan to enable learners to access their chosen musical career.	Unit 362 – Lead Performer Exploring image portrayal and performance persona through a live performance to an audience.
Unit 370 – Studio Sound Recording Operating studio sound recording equipment, planning and conducting a recording session. Mixing and mastering the result.	Unit 385 – Improving Instrumental Performance Exploring personal strengths and weaknesses as an instrumentalist and developing and undertaking a tutorial programme for improvement.
Unit 387 – Rehearsal Skills and Live Music Performance Selecting, rehearsing and performing a set of pieces to a given theme. Organising and delivering an external event performance. (Externally assessed).	

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

At Coombe Dean School, a commitment to inclusion and equity is integral to the curriculum. It is imperative that every student has access to the music curriculum and attains successful outcomes. It is recognised that certain students may require additional, often temporary support. The music department works closely with the SENDCO to ensure that the music curriculum is entirely accessible to SEND learners.

Additional Music Qualifications

In addition to our curriculum provision, Coombe Dean School offers students the opportunity to undertake graded music examinations with peripatetic teachers in the following areas: brass; woodwind; strings; music theory; drums; music production.

Our Head of Music is also an accredited arts award facilitator (bronze, silver and gold) and an experienced GCSE Music Moderator.

Part B: Extra-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.

This section addresses the opportunities that pupils at Coombe Dean School have to sing and play music outside of lesson time. Students have access to a number of opportunities to make, create, perform and play music, this is through a variety of ensemble or instrumental groups that allow students to make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Instrumental & Vocal Groups & Clubs

Coombe Dean School offers a range of instrumental and vocal groups as well as clubs that are offered **free of charge** which are open to all students across all year groups. Rehearsals and clubs take place in specialist music areas such as the music department and the peripatetic instrumental rooms. These are:

- Junior Choir (Years 7-9)
- KS4 Choir (10-11)
- Senior Vocal Group
- Chamber Choir
- Year 11 Composition Extension
- String Ensemble
- Chamber Ensemble
- Jazz Collective
- Horn Group
- Folk Group
- Soul Band
- Junior Band
- Senior Band
- Post-16 Band
- Samba band
- Music Careers Group
- Music Tech Club

Further to the above, Coombe Dean School offers peripatetic music lessons delivered by specialist instrumental teachers designed to enhance students' musical education through individualised instruction. This offer provides opportunities for students to receive tuition in a variety of instruments, fostering a diverse and enriching learning environment on a one-to-one basis.

Instrument Choices:

- Piano and keyboard
- Guitar: acoustic, electric or bass guitar
- Strings: violin, viola or cello
- Brass: trumpet, trombone, baritone horn and tuba
- Drum kit
- Voice
- Woodwind: saxophone, flute, clarinet, oboe and recorder
- Music technology or sound production
- Songwriting
- Ukulele
- Musical theory

Lessons are subsidised for Pupil Premium students. During the 2025/26 academic year, 20% of students eligible for the pupil premium received subsidised music tuition.

Part C: Musical Events

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.

This section covers additional musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as concerts, shows, trips and events. Within the academic year there are several additional musical opportunities that take place.

These include:

- **Annual Christmas Concert** – A festive evening of music featuring department ensembles and soloists from across all year groups.
- **BSO GCSE Concert** – A visit to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's GCSE Set Works Performance and Workshop.
- **Year 12 Performance Showcase** – Solo recitals from our year 12 musicians.
- **Year 13 Performance Showcase** – Solo recitals from our year 12 musicians at an external music performance venue.
- **Annual Key Stage 3 Music Awards Evening** – An evening of celebration for students in years 7 and 8 with certificates and trophies presented to many students with performances from department ensembles and soloists.
- **Annual Key Stage 4 Music Awards Evening** – An evening of celebration for students in years 9 to 13 with certificates and trophies presented to many students with performances from department ensembles and soloists.
- **Post-16 Music Work Experience** – all post-16 music students are given an industry work experience placement.
- **Future Musicians Project** – A mentoring and performance experience in partnership with our primary school colleagues.
- **Annual Summer Concert** – A relaxed evening of musical entertainment from soloists and duets from across all years
- **Department CDs** – Department ensembles get the recording studio experience with our resident qualified sound production expert, multitracking their songs and taking home a CD of their work.

In the future

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

The forthcoming academic year (2026/27) sees the following new projects from 25/26 continue alongside our permanent programme:

- **Music Industry Careers Programme**

A fortnightly additional class where students will learn industry specific skills relating to a forging career in music including surviving in the industry, different job roles and related skills, understanding platforms to release music and exploring the requirements of self-employment.

- **Sound Production Lessons**

An addition to our instrumental provision. Students can learn to operate a DAW and develop production specific skills such as EQing, compressing, panning and sampling moving onto more advanced logic tools such as levels and metering all the way up to industry standard.

The following new project/provision will run throughout the coming academic year:

- **Social Media Promotion**

An addition to our Music Industry Careers Programme, exploring developing a social media presence and creating and editing promotional materials

- **Composing and Arranging Shorts**

To accompany the bespoke Composer's Handbook (written by department staff), a series of shorts looking at individual composing and arranging techniques to help students throughout KS4 and 5 will be released at different points through the year.