



Music development plan summary: Dowdales School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Emma Richardson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Anna Dove (Assistant Headteacher)
Name of local music hub	Cumbria Music Hub
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

At Dowdales School, students study music for one lesson per week throughout Key Stage 3. Students who choose music as an option (GCSE Music) will study music three lessons per week in their timetable with an addition weekly peripatetic lesson to support the development of their chosen musical discipline.

Our curriculum is routed in the Nation Curriculum where our aims reflect the aims of the National Curriculum. We also believe music is a “universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.” At Dowdales our music curriculum allows students to:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.



Students have the opportunity to learn to play and develop on keyboard, ukulele, on drums, to sing and to use music technology throughout Year 7-9. In Year 7-9 pupils work individually, in pairs and as an ensemble to develop as keyboard players. Whole-class ukulele tuition takes place throughout Key Stage 3. Students experience and learn to analyse and compose music across a range of genres. This includes African music, samba music, jazz, blues, sea shanty, popular music and musical theatre. Students will also study and compose music for film scores and video games.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Dowdales there are opportunities for all students to engage in music outside the curriculum. Students can join the school choir and practise weekly. They can also join the school band who meet and rehearse every week. In addition, students can access an additional weekly music lesson in guitar, singing, saxophone, drums, clarinet and brass. The cost of these lessons is subsidised by the school.

Part C: Musical experiences

The music department is a key part of our thriving performing arts department. Students who take up the opportunities that exist outside lessons contribute to the school productions that take place throughout the year. These include:

- **Term 1 – Christmas at Dowdales concert**
- **Term 2 – School Production**
- **Term 3 – Shakespeare Playmaking Festival or Summer Concert**

In addition, all year 7 take part in a local carol concert accompanied by the school choir and band. Students also take part in 'Gabriels' at Carlisle Cathedral.

Trips and experiences also include work with our:

- Cumbria Music Hub
- Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
- Manchester Video Games Orchestra

In the future

We would like to continue to build partnerships that enable our musicians to experience live music and benefit from working with practicing musicians. These include the Royal Albert Hall "Future makers" concert where talented musicians aged 14-19 from across the UK will audition to be the next Future Makers champion. The chosen acts will perform original music from a wide mix of genres in front of a panel of industry experts and an energetic Key Stage 2 and 3 audience. The performers are in for the chance of winning a year of tailored music industry support as they get their careers off the ground. We will also benefit from a musician in residence from the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.