

Music development plan summary: Exmouth Community College

The National Plan for Music Education states that schools will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the plan:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	16.09.2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Greg Susevee
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Philippa Rowe
Name of local music hub	Devon 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

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.

From September 2024 the College follows a two-week timetable. Music is taught twice per fortnight at KS3, with 6 lessons per fortnight at KS4, 9 lesson per fortnight in Year 12 and 10 lessons per fortnight at Year 13.

The overriding aim is for students to . . .

- Acquire performance techniques and develop musicianship
- Enjoy Music
- Develop understanding of musical contexts and cultures

The curriculum is designed to provide opportunities for students to build upon their prior learning, establish inter-relational links between key knowledge strands (taken from the Model Music Curriculum): Performing, Composing, Listening (Technical and Expressive), Singing and Notation. The design takes into account staff strengths as well as the impact of being in a coastal, South West society, looking at the cultural capital that can be added to enhance student experience and knowledge.

Key knowledge is developed through an eclectic selection of topics: from Folk to Fusion, Bach to Beyonce, European to Caribbean we take students on a journey of musical exploration and discovery.

Students at KS3 learn to read staff notation, perform on keyboards using both hands together with accuracy and fluency, use elements of music to compose music in different structures, styles and for various occasions, listen to and gain an understanding of music from some 'great' composers as well as music from cultures around the world and music from the 20th century onwards, use ICT to support and extend composing knowledge, sing in groups and as a whole class and discuss aspects of musical influence and context. The curriculum is designed to build on prior learning, students tracking their learning across the six strands of the Model Music Curriculum and the cumulative knowledge encountered.

Link to the KS3 curriculum plan: [Exmouth Community College - Key Stage 3 \(exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk\)](https://www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

Students are supported through Quality First Teaching and resources such as scaffolding templates, guidance sheets, keyboard templates and those with specific SEND needs have support appropriate to their needs.

Students at KS4 can study OCR GCSE Music (9-1) or Pearson BTEC Level 1 / 2 Tech Award in Music Practice. Students at KS5 can study Pearson A Level Music or Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music Performance.

The College has links with the Devon Music Hub, particularly at KS4, where students participate in composition workshops with *Sonorities*.

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.

Students have the opportunity to learn the following instruments through our peripatetic scheme: Upper Strings (Violin), Woodwind (Flute, Clarinet, Sax), Voice, Piano/Keyboard, Guitar, Ukulele, Bass Guitar, Percussion. Lessons are available individually or in small groups. Pupil Premium / Child in Care money is used to support eligible students in learning an instrument. Students can choose to study for graded examinations if they wish. There are fees associated with the exams and lessons.

The College runs a variety of free extra-curricular activities, meeting weekly. These include: Shout (transition choir for Years 5 to 8), Sing (junior choir), Cantare (senior choir), Band (open to all instruments), Chamber Ensemble, Music Technology Club, House band (students able to form and rehearse as bands as well as students being encouraged to use practice rooms for their own or small group activities during break and lunchtime. Activities are led by departmental staff and Post 16 students.

The College has a stock of instruments that can be loaned out to students as necessary.

The Shout choir has received some funding from the Devon Music Hub.

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.

During the academic year there are many opportunities for music-making.

September: Showcase performances by ensembles and exam class students at Open Evening

November: Concert in conjunction with local Rotary Club in the School Theatre. Students from all ensembles and some small groups/soloists perform to an audience of c. 250

December: College Production of *High School Musical*. The Music department works with the Dance/Drama teams with the singing and providing a live band of staff and students for the production.

December: Public Community Carol Service at Withycombe Raleigh Church, performed by ensembles and soloists. This is a free event, and the Church is fairly full.

Spring Term: BTEC Level 3 performances (ensemble and solo) organised and performed by the students

Summer Term: Expressive Arts Showcase with Dance and Drama, including Art and Technology in 2025. All ensembles involved in the Theatre.

Transition concerts with primary schools at ECC Theatre. An opportunity to welcome feeder primaries to the school and make music together both primary and secondary.

Quad Concert at school with BBQ/Picnic. End of year celebrations with the opportunity to thank those who are moving on to the next phase of their journey. Well attended event.

Other events may include: Workshops with outside organisation (*Sonorities*), *Band of HM Royal Marines (Lymptone)*. Where possible, the department also organises visits to London (Royal Albert Hall for school performances, Royal Opera House for schools matinees).

In the future

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

Pre-Covid the Department ran a performance tour abroad every other year. Our plan is to reinstate this bearing in mind the cost of living and rebuilding events following the pandemic.

We would also like to increase our external performances, reinstating performances at the Devon County Show in conjunction with the Devon Music Hub and an external performance in Exmouth Manor Gardens.

We are also looking to increase our instrument tuition provision by employing more staff to cover brass instruments.

We are always looking for opportunities to enable students to access live music performances.