Music development plan summary:
Cleeve School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jason Haggett
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Make Music Gloucestershire
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 KS3 our students study the elements of music through practical based lessons covering a wide range of genres from classical to contemporary pop music, through two, 55 minute music lessons per fortnight.

In Yr7 students learn about the importance of singing and how to improve as a singer, how to create successful melodies and build a song around them (in topics based on folk music and festive pop), how the elements are used to create descriptive music, the fundamentals of rhythm and how musicians perform as an ensemble. These lessons involve their voice, body percussion and keyboard skills.

In Yr8 students focus on developing their keyboard skills through the study of more complex, syncopated and two-part music. They study Reggae, The Blues, Jazz and popular riffs, and develop independence of hands, improvisatory playing, performing with swung rhythms and performing and composing using ostinato as a device.

In Yr9 students explore more contemporary music through Hip-Hop, Bhangra and dance music, whilst also making links back to classical music and common musical devices.

Each year ends with a compositional project based on a current theme where students get to demonstrate the musical understanding they have developed through their studies.

We focus on keyboard skills in KS3 to allow all students to access Music Technology as an instrumental option and to give them a compositional advantage in terms of harmony at GCSE.

At KS4, students receive 5 lessons a fortnight divided between their appraising studies, performance and composition. They develop appraising skills through study of classical and popular set works as well as music for ensemble, musical theatre and film music. They work on performances to meet the Grade 3 standard for instrumental ability, both as soloists and members of ensemble. Compositional work involves creating music to a brief (set by the exam board) and creating a 'free' composition in the style of their choosing.

At KS5, students receive 9 lessons a fortnight divided between appraising, performance and composition. Appraising covers more complex analysis of works from the baroque, classical and romantic eras – including the development of the symphony, and also 20th Century '-isms' and Rock + Pop music from the 1960s to 2010. Students work on performances to meet the Grade 6 standard and prepare 10 minute recitals of works from across their different areas of study. Compositional work involves studying how to create music in the Western Classical Tradition through the analysis of existing works and harmony typical of Bach Chorales. Students also compose a 'free' composition that must demonstrate a high level of stylistic authenticity, creativity and complexity.

SEND students are supported in their studies through use of technology to perform and compose, funding support for instrumental tuition and low student to staff ratios at KS4/5.

Link to our curriculum on the school website - https://www.cleeveschool.net/Music-Learning-Journey-Curriculum/

Part B: Extra-curricular music

A significant number of students receive extra-curricular instrumental tuition on a weekly basis. We have a large team of experienced, peripatetic staff who offer lessons in voice, strings, woodwind, brass, guitar, bass and piano/keyboard. Where there is demand for tuition in other instruments, we can bring teachers in from the local music service or other providers. Students can study towards graded, instrumental exams if they wish as well as for their own pleasure and musical development.

Financial support is available for these lessons and the school will pay 2/3 of the cost of lessons for Pupil Premium students. Free School Meal students are eligible to apply for a bursary from Make Music Gloucestershire that covers the full cost of lessons. The school will also offer support where needed to access instrumental tuition.

All Yr7 Pupil Premium students receive a fully funded 20 minute instrumental lesson per week. These are on an individual or group basis depending on the instrument chosen. FSM students can also apply for free instrumental hire from the local music service. Where possible, the school will also loan instruments to students.

Our extra-curricular groups are all free of charge and currently include:

String Group – open to all of our string players.

Jazz group – open to all students who have a good level of musical ability but without the need to read music.

Ensemble – open to all students on any instrument who can read music from a basic level upwards.

KS4/5 Choir – open to all KS4/5 students and staff.

The Voice Collective – open to all KS3 students. This is provided by The Music Works and is a 10 week songwriting project culminating in recording a song in a studio and filming a video.

The Music Department encourages students to make use of the facilities during breaks, lunchtime and afterschool, and to create their own groups. We have a large number of practice rooms and instruments available, including a suite of Mac computers running Garageband and Logic.

All of our extra-curricular activities are promoted during music lessons, Yr7 induction days and on the school website. County groups and opportunities from other music providers are also promoted through posters and electronically.

Part C: Musical experiences

Each year the school has a Christmas Concert, Leavers' Show (for Yr11 and Yr13) and a Summer Show. We aim to have a bi-annual musical theatre production.

Apart from our Leaver's Show, students from throughout the school can perform in our shows, whether as soloists or part of an ensemble. They do not have to be studying at KS4/5, having instrumental lessons or be part of an organised extra-curricular activity.

Our shows are open to audiences of students, families and friends of the performers and are ticketed. The Christmas and Summer shows are currently priced at £4. The Leavers' Show is free. All of our performers are part of the audience for shows so that they can enjoy and appreciate the performances of their peers. Musical Theatre shows have ticket prices based on the costs of licensing and production, with reduced prices available where appropriate.

College Music is open to students from across the school with KS5 students taking a leadership role. This event includes original songs, college songs and ensemble performances which students work on in the term leading up to the event. Students involved in College Music form the audience for the entire day.

Every year we work with the The Music Works and 30 of our KS3 students spend 10 weeks writing and rehearsing their own song which is then recorded at a recording studio along with a music video. This project is funded by The Music Works and the school with no charge to the students. It has focus towards SEND and PP students but is open to all students who apply (up to a maximum of 30).

Our Jazz group perform at the prestigious Cheltenham Jazz Festival every year as part of the 'Jazz It Up' schools' initiative. This is a free event that family, friends and staff can attend.

Our students have lots of opportunities to perform at school events such as open evenings and achievement evenings. We also have occasional performers as part of assemblies.

In the future

In the future we aim to develop further facilities for music to allow even more extra-curricular activities and performance opportunities. We are also exploring links with other schools and music providers that will allow students to have more experiences of larger scale musical performances both within and outside of school.