Music development plan summary: Hartshill Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Name of the school music lead	Ami Radcliffe
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Joshua Craig
Name of local music hub	Warwickshire Music Hub

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.

The music curriculum at Hartshill Academy is published on the school website and sets out a clearly sequenced programme of study from Year 7 to Year 11. The curriculum is designed around the three core musical disciplines of performing, composing and appraising, with pupils developing knowledge and skills through a broad range of musical styles and experiences. At Key Stage 3, pupils study topics including notation, ukulele, choir, blues, band skills, protest music, reggae, jazz, minimalism, hip hop, rock and film music, before progressing to the GCSE Music course in Key Stage 4. The curriculum is informed by national curriculum expectations and provides regular opportunities for singing, instrumental performance, composition and ensemble work within lesson time. Full curriculum information can be accessed at: https://www.hartshillacademy.org.uk/learning/subjects/music.

Hartshill Academy is committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), can access and succeed within the music curriculum. The school prioritises inclusive education, with pupils supported to participate in lessons alongside their peers through high-quality teaching, appropriate adaptations and specialist support where required. Staff receive ongoing professional development to enhance their ability to support pupils with additional needs, and the school follows the Department for Education SEND Code of Practice to ensure equitable access to learning opportunities. Further information regarding SEND provision can be found at: https://www.hartshillacademy.org.uk/about-us/school-information/send.

Music is taught as part of the curriculum throughout Key Stage 3, with pupils receiving discrete curriculum music lessons across all six half-terms in Years 7, 8 and 9. Pupils also benefit from practical performance opportunities including choir, ukulele and ensemble-based learning within lessons. At Key Stage 4, pupils may choose to study GCSE Music, which develops performance, composition and appraising skills and provides preparation for further musical study and participation beyond school. The school continues to work closely with local and wider musical opportunities to enrich pupils' musical experiences and support progression in music education.

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.

Hartshill Academy offers instrumental tuition through its partnership with Warwickshire Music. Pupils can access specialist instrumental lessons in guitar, drums and keyboard, delivered by visiting music teachers during the school day. Lessons are agreed by parents directly through Warwickshire Music with 33 lessons provided across the academic year. To support access, new pupils are eligible for free instrument hire during their first year of learning (subject to availability), and free instrument hire and fee remissions are available for families who meet the Warwickshire Music remission criteria. This partnership provides a clear pathway for pupils to develop their musical skills beyond classroom learning and to continue their musical progression over time.

Co-curricular music opportunities are closely linked to the school's curriculum, which places a strong emphasis on practical music-making, singing and ensemble performance. This includes performance at Christmas in our annual Carol Service, and as part of the school's internal productions within the show band. Within the curriculum, pupils participate in activities such as choir, ukulele, band skills and ensemble performance, developing the confidence and musicianship needed to engage in wider musical opportunities. Pupils studying GCSE Music further develop their performance skills as soloists and ensemble musicians and are encouraged to contribute to the musical life of the school community. Pupils wishing to extend their involvement in music can enrol for instrumental tuition through the school's partnership with Warwickshire Music, which also provides wider opportunities and progression routes through the county music service.

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.

As part of the school's commitment to providing an education with character, pupils are encouraged to participate in a broad range of cultural and creative experiences that extend beyond normal lesson time. Musical performance opportunities are open to pupils through curriculum activities, instrumental tuition and school enrichment programmes, enabling pupils to perform as participants while other pupils benefit as audience members. Through its curriculum, partnership with Warwickshire Music and commitment to cultural enrichment, Hartshill Academy provides a range of opportunities for pupils to engage with music, develop their performance skills and contribute to the musical life of the school.

Pupils have opportunities to participate in a variety of musical events, including:

- Christmas Concert
- School Musical Productions
- Dance Showcase
- Celebration Assemblies
- Vocal Club and Instrumental Performances
- Community and Trust-wide performance opportunities where available

These events provide valuable opportunities for pupils to showcase their talents, celebrate their achievements and perform to live audiences. Participation is open to pupils from all year groups and abilities, ensuring that music remains accessible and inclusive for the whole school community.

In the future

Hartshill Academy is committed to continually developing and enhancing its music provision to ensure that all pupils have access to high-quality musical experiences both within and beyond the classroom.

During 2026–27 and beyond, we will:

- Continue to grow our peripatetic instrumental programme, building on the current success of pupils receiving instrumental tuition.
- Further strengthen progression routes from Key Stage 3 into GCSE Music through targeted enrichment opportunities and increased performance experiences.
- Establish regular performance opportunities to provide GCSE Music pupils with additional opportunities to perform publicly, develop confidence and prepare for assessed performances.
- Expand opportunities for pupils to perform through informal concerts, showcases, assemblies and community events throughout the academic year.
- Continue to embed singing across the Key Stage 3 curriculum and increase participation in Choir and other ensemble activities.
- Develop greater use of music technology to support composition, performance and creative music-making.
- Increase the visibility of music across the school by celebrating pupil achievements through performances, competitions and school communications.
- Strengthen links with external organisations and music education partners to further enrich pupils' musical experiences.

Through these developments, Hartshill Academy aims to ensure that every pupil can develop their musical skills, confidence, creativity and cultural understanding, whilst fostering a lifelong appreciation and enjoyment of music.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Warwickshire Music Hub - home | Warwickshire Music