

# Cramlington Learning Village

## Music Development Plan



Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2026
Name of the school music lead	Joanna Glanville
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	David Bell
Name of local music hub	Music Partnership North

## Overview

At Cramlington Learning Village, we believe that Music is an accessible subject for students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve in. A vibrant Music Department is vital to achieving this. Music provides ample opportunities to nurture skills that are not only essential in improving musical ability, but also in developing confidence, engagement and social awareness, all of which are key to the development of pupils' interpersonal skills for the future.

It is also our belief that all pupils have ability in Music and it is up to the teacher to facilitate and support pupils in realising it. We aim to make music accessible to all through a range of approaches, covering practical skills, contextual understanding and an understanding of music theory and terminology.

We aim to create well rounded musicians, who are able to perform with confidence and we strive to nurture their individual skills, celebrate their personal milestones and achievements, and promote a culture of music throughout the school.



Our curriculum encourages students to:

- ♪ Perform, listen to and appreciate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions.
- ♪ Understand how music is created, produced and communicated.
- ♪ Compose music on their own and with others, using live instruments and music technology.
- ♪ Have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument or use their voices to create performances and showcase their work.
- ♪ Appreciate the role music has in their local community and wider cultural society.
- ♪ Develop transferable skills which will aid them in their future career choices.

## Curriculum music

We have three members of curriculum music staff at Cramlington Learning Village:

Joanna Glanville (Head of Department)

Kayleigh Griffiths

Sophie Butler (Music and Drama)

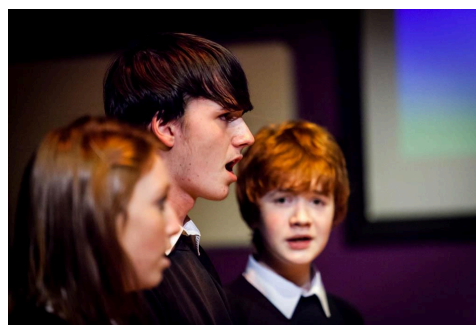
We are very fortunate at Cramlington Learning Village to offer a generous amount of curriculum time to Music. Please see an overview of our lesson allocation per year group (60 minute lessons).

Year Group	Lessons per fortnight
7	2
8	2
9	4 (as an option subject)
10	5
11	5

The Key Stage 3 music curriculum at Cramlington Learning Village is designed using an original model, but taking influence from and using elements from **The Model Music Curriculum**, **Musical Contexts** and **The Musical Futures Model**. The curriculum has been developed with our students in mind and the aim is to engage students and foster a love for music making, whilst still enabling students to follow the national curriculum through performance, composition and listening.

In year 7 and 8 Music lessons all students are given the opportunity to learn to play an instrument (keyboard, guitar or ukulele) and they will develop their instrumental skills on this instrument throughout year 7 and 8, with practical performance elements being built into every unit. Whole class singing is also an integral part of our curriculum and is an area of our curriculum we are currently developing to ensure all students engage and are confident to sing as a whole class.

In year 9 our students make subject choices in a 'secure' model, so our curriculum for this year group is designed as a bridging year to prepare students for GCSE Music.



In year 10 and 11 we follow Edexcel GCSE Music, which allows students to continue developing their skills in our three areas of performance, composition and listening.

Please follow the links to our Curriculum Maps for further information.

## Co-curricular music

### Instrumental Tuition

Cramlington Learning Village has an exceptional offer of music tuition available in one-to-one and small group lessons. Lessons take place during the school day on a weekly basis for 10 weeks per term.

[This Flyer](#) includes further information about our offer for parents and carers.

Key stage 3 students receive 20 minute lessons and KS4 students studying GCSE music receive 30 minute on-to-one lessons.



Cramlington Learning Village offers heavily subsidised music tuition as we are passionate about students receiving affordable instrumental tuition. As a school we subsidise £15,000 towards instrumental tuition each year to ensure as many students as possible are able to access lessons. This subsidy increases further for GCSE music students, who receive instrumental tuition as part of their course.

We currently have around 130 students taking instrumental tuition in school.

As a school we invest in a timetabling software, Involve Education (Formerly Practice Pal), which allows students and parents to access their lesson times, view attendance and information about what students have been covering in these lessons. This software links to our school MIS system to ensure the attendance/safeguarding of our students, and allows staff to see an overview of which timetabled lessons students miss, in order to provide our students with a balanced curriculum.

We have the following members of staff who teach instrumental music lessons at Cramlington Learning village. All members of staff are highly experienced instrumental teachers and musicians in their own right. Please follow the link to our [Staff Profiles](#) for further information about our instrumental teaching staff.

**Guitar - Stuart Davies**

**Vocals - Sally Foster**

**Drums - Graeme Hare**

**Woodwind - Wendy Henderson**

**Brass - Stephanie Chinery and Kayleigh Griffiths**

**Piano - Jonnie Winter and Karolyn Yarrow**

### **Practice Room Facilities**

We are very fortunate as a school to have outstanding Practice Room Facilities. We have 7 individual practice rooms that are all equipped with specialist equipment, including pianos and drum kits in each room. These rooms are used predominantly by our instrumental teachers, but are also used as break out spaces during curriculum lessons, to allow students access to individual and group practice spaces.

These practice room spaces can also be booked ad hoc by students at breaks and lunchtimes, which provides students with individual and small group work spaces for practice. We find this particularly useful for students who do not have access to their own pianos and drum kits at home, to enable them to make progress in their instrumental tuition. It is however difficult for the department to staff this, which is something we are looking to overcome in the future.

### **Extra Curricular Music Activities**

We offer a wide range of extra curricular music activities at CLV. All of the activities below are offered to students free of charge during lunch time and after school sessions.



**Choir** - This is open to students of all year groups and abilities. We learn a wide range of songs in 2-3 parts. The choir currently has over 50 members, ranging from years 7-13.

**Chamber Choir** - This is an advanced singing ensemble run by our singing teacher, where students are hand selected and mostly receive singing lessons. This is

an a cappella ensemble where students learn more complex music in four parts.

**Orchestra** - This is a mixed instrumental ensemble for students of all abilities. We perform a wide range of music from classical to rock and this ensemble provides instrumentalists with an opportunity to play with others and improve their ensemble skills.

**Woodwind Ensemble** - This is a small group ensemble led by our woodwind teacher, to provide students with an opportunity to play with others and improve their ensemble skills.



**Folk Group** - This is a small group ensemble run by our string tutor for students with an interest in traditional music, to provide them with specialist input in learning to play music of this style.

**Samba Group** - This provides drum students with an opportunity to form a Samba band and perform together as a percussion ensemble. This is led by our drum teacher and the group rehearses at lunchtime, working on traditional samba music. We have been lucky enough to secure a full Samba Set from Music Partnership North, to enable our students to experience this unique musical style.



**Youth Theatre (School Production- Shrek 2026)** - This is our annual school production, which is usually made up of a cast of around 80 singers, actors and dancers. The production is inclusive to all, although lead characters are cast through an audition system. We have had highly successful school productions for over 10 years, taking place annually in March. Past productions have included Matilda, The Sound of Music,

Billy Elliot, We Will Rock You and many more. The cast rehearse after school once per week throughout the school year, with additional rehearsals added towards the show date.



**Show Band (School Production - Shrek 2026)** - To accompany our school production we form a Pit orchestra of students to perform alongside the musical. These students are typically our older, more advanced instrumentalists and are hand selected due to

the complex and professional nature of the scores. This provides students with invaluable experience performing within a pit orchestra, which a number of our students go on to do professionally following their studies.

**Challenge Wednesday - Band Challenge (Year 7)** - This is a half termly music project offered to students as part of their Challenge Wednesday activities. This is run by our piano teacher and offers students the opportunity to try out different instruments and learn to play music in an ensemble environment. A number of students from this project have gone on to continue their musical learning and start instrumental tuition.

## Musical experiences

Cramlington Learning Village hosts a wide range of musical experiences for our students, working with a number of external partners to go above and beyond the music curriculum and provide our students with opportunities to work with external providers and professional musicians in settings outside of the classroom. Below is a selection of some of the opportunities available to our students on an annual basis, in the previous and upcoming academic year.

### Annual Musical Opportunities

The performance opportunities listed below give our students excellent performance opportunities. These showcases also provide opportunities for other students to experience the performances in school as audience members, and we are very lucky to have extremely supportive students and families who attend these often sell out events.

**KS3 Music Showcase** - At Cramlington Learning Village we are passionate about providing our students with live performance opportunities. Our Key Stage 3 students are given a yearly opportunity to perform in front of a live audience of around 250 family and friends in our Music Showcase. This takes place in the Summer term and is an opportunity for younger students receiving instrumental tuition to perform solos

that they have been working on in their instrumental lessons. It is also an opportunity for our ensembles to demonstrate the pieces they have been preparing throughout the year. We believe that performing in front of a live audience is an invaluable experience for a musician, which can build students' confidence and prepare them for future performances in GCSE Music.



**GCSE Music Showcases** - In order to continue providing performance opportunities, our GCSE students are given three opportunities to perform in front of a live audience of around 100 family and friends in our GCSE Showcases. These take place in December and July of Year 10 and December of Year 11. Students perform their Solo and Ensemble performance pieces, which are recorded to be used as potential GCSE music

coursework, making up 30% of their final mark. Although it is not stipulated in the GCSE specification that students should perform to a live audience, we believe that it is an invaluable experience for a musician, which can build students' confidence and prepare them for life as a potential professional musician.

**Year 6 Open Evening** - Every October CLV hosts our potential new year 7 students and their families for an open evening. During this evening there are various performance opportunities for our students to perform to a captive audience. The Choir performs in the JLV entrance as families arrive, Our Production cast perform in The Drama space, some of the musical numbers they have been preparing and some of our gifted and talented Year 7 students are given the opportunity to perform some of the pieces they have been working on in their Music curriculum lessons.



**School Musical Production** - Our school production takes place every March over a 3 night run to a sell out audience. We have had highly successful school productions for over 10 years, and these performances are very well attended by staff, students and the wider Cramlington Community. There is always a real “buzz” around the school during show week. There is a real production feel to our school musicals, with an all student Cast, Pit Band, and

Technical Crew, providing our students with lots of opportunities to be involved in different ways.

**PlayDay** - We organise a bi-annual ‘Play Day’ involving all of our feeder primary schools in Cramlington. Over 200 primary musicians come together each year, having begun their musical journey at their primary school. This provides our younger students with an opportunity to take part in a whole day of music making alongside our instrumental teachers and perform a concert in the afternoon for their family and friends. They are also assisted by CLV students during this day, which provides an invaluable mentoring opportunity for our current students. This event has taken place for over 10 years and has had a positive impact on music transition and has repeatedly received fantastic feedback from all schools involved.



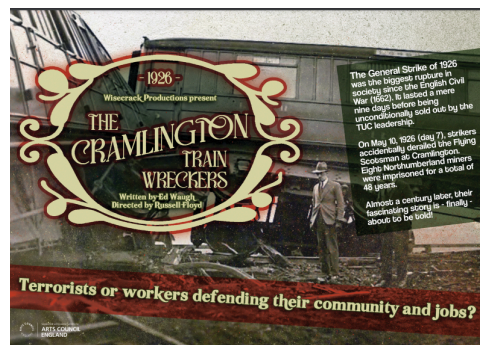
**Theatre Trips** - Every year we organise several theatre trips to Newcastle Theatre Royal and Sunderland Empire to take groups of students to see musicals, often in collaboration with our Drama Department. In the past we have taken students to see Six, We Will Rock You, Billy Elliot and many more and next year we have trips organised to see Wicked and Hairspray. These trips are organised at a reduced rate and paid for by parents. Tickets for PP students are paid for from the PP budget. These trips provide students with an invaluable opportunity to see live performances.



## **2024/25**

**Catch Singing Project** - This project was delivered in collaboration with Northumbria University, as part of their research into Round and Catch Singing from the Tudor period. The aim was to introduce students unfamiliar with catches to their unique structure and sound. In February 2025, researchers worked with selected Year 7 and 8 students, alongside our Horrible Music Histories Project to teach a range of polyphonic songs that bridged oral and literate traditions from circa 1550–1700. The project also explored ways of reviving social catch-singing in a contemporary context with our students.

**Trainwreckers** - This play, written by a local playwright, was performed at our school by a professional production company. As part of the production, our Music students had the opportunity to contribute by writing their own songs inspired by the Trainwreckers story. In September 2024, a group of Year 8 and 9 students took part in songwriting workshops led by Ray Laidlaw (Lindisfarne) and Jordan Miller (Vandebilt). Their final pieces were showcased during the opening night of the play, adding a unique and creative dimension to the performance.



**Cramlington Community Choir Concert** - On Thursday 12th December, we had the pleasure of hosting Cramlington Community Choir for a fantastic collaborative concert alongside our School Choir and Chamber Choir. The event provided our students with a valuable opportunity to perform with a local community choir, giving them a glimpse into musical pathways they might pursue beyond school. The evening featured a varied programme shared between the choirs and concluded with a powerful joint finale that was warmly received by the audience. It was a memorable and inspiring experience for all involved.

**Brundibar Arts** - As part of the annual festival held in Newcastle around Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January), Brundibar Arts visited our school in November 2024 to work with a group of our Year 8 students. This outreach project focused on showcasing the music and art of composers who were victims of the Holocaust. Smaller groups of Year 8 instrumentalists worked closely with the visiting artists to learn and perform selected works, culminating in a moving in-school performance for a wider audience of their peers. In addition, professional classical musicians gave a powerful violin and piano recital for the entire Year 8 cohort, further enriching their understanding of the historical and emotional depth of the music. The experience was both educational and profoundly impactful for all involved.

**Helix Arts- Our Future Project** - A group of selected students took part in a series of exciting music workshops delivered by Helix Arts, an organisation dedicated to supporting creativity, wellbeing, and youth engagement through the arts. The fully funded sessions were led by professional artists Bernii Mac and Ken Masters and ran after school across several weeks. Students began with an introductory session on 11th June, where they met the Helix Arts team and helped plan ideas for a free summer music programme in partnership with Cramlington Town Council. The following weeks included workshops on building confidence and wellbeing through music, digital music production using Bandlab, beatboxing and rap, and songwriting. Each session was engaging and hands-on, giving students the opportunity to develop their musical skills in a creative and supportive environment.

## **2025/26**

**Orchestral Play Day at Royal Grammar School** – In November, several of our students will participate in an exciting Orchestral Play Day hosted at the prestigious Royal Grammar School. This event will bring together talented young musicians from schools across the region to collaborate and rehearse a popular orchestral programme. Under the guidance of experienced conductors and professional musicians, students will have the unique opportunity to develop their ensemble skills, work closely with peers from different schools, and experience the thrill of performing as part of a large orchestra. This highly anticipated event promises to be an inspiring and enriching musical experience, showcasing the incredible talent within our local schools and offering our students an invaluable chance to elevate their musicianship in a professional, supportive environment.

**Fusiliers Band Joint Concert** – This Christmas, our school Choir will have the exciting opportunity to perform a joint concert with The Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, a prestigious Army Reserve Band based in Newcastle. We are fortunate to have a close connection with the band, as our Head of Music is the Principal Flautist. During the concert, the Choir will present some of the pieces they have been preparing, while the band will perform a selection from their own repertoire. The evening will conclude with a collaborative finale. This promises to be a fantastic opportunity for the entire community to enjoy a professional military band and experience music at an exceptional level, while also giving our students the invaluable experience of performing alongside professional musicians.

**Music Careers Day at Newcastle University** – Next summer, our Year 10 Music students will have the exciting opportunity to take part in a Music Careers Day hosted at Newcastle University. The event is designed to give students a deeper understanding of the wide range of career paths available within the music industry. Throughout the day, professionals from various roles will give presentations about their careers, sharing insights into their daily work and the journeys that led them there. Students will also have the chance to ask questions and engage directly with the speakers. This promises to be

a valuable experience, helping students explore lesser-known roles within the music sector and consider these options when planning their future.

## In the future

As a Department we have identified the following areas for development over the next academic year. Below are some key areas of focus for this academic year.

**Improve Whole Class Singing** - With the introduction of our new KS3 Music curriculum we incorporated a new whole class singing regime with some success. Our students in year 7 began the year singing with enthusiasm and confidence, however as the year progressed their enjoyment diminished. Although most students will participate in whole class singing, the enthusiasm is lacking, which is something we aim to improve this year. Following some Student Voice, identifying song choices as an overwhelming factor for student enthusiasm, we have re-organised the order in which we sing certain songs throughout the year, and incorporated more modern songs to increase student enjoyment. Please see link to [KS3 Singing Document](#).

**Re-introduce Post 16 Music Course** - Following low uptake at KS5 our school removed A level Music as a post 16 option in 2020 and we are keen to work to bring this back as an option for our sixth form students within the next 4 years, or earlier if suitable. It is hoped that following the introduction of a new KS3 Music curriculum in September 2023, we will increase student interest in the subject and will hopefully have a larger cohort of students suitable for a post 16 music course, when those current year 8 students reach the sixth form.

**Increased number of students studying GCSE Music** - Following COVID and the introduction of the EBac we have seen reduced numbers of students studying GCSE music at Cramlington Learning Village. At its peak we had 42 students studying GCSE in 2016, receiving an ISM Bronze award for exceptional results and our aim is to get close to those numbers once again. With the introduction of our new KS3 music curriculum we are already seeing increased student interest and passion for the subject within KS3 and hope to see an increase in GCSE Music uptake by 2026. In order to enhance this interest we are incorporating a new online year 9 music curriculum for those students who do not opt to study music in year 9, but who may still have an interest in studying music at GCSE. These students will be able to work through curriculum content independently, which will hopefully engage them throughout the year. We will also be organising Gifted and Talented events for our year 9 students through Helix arts, to further enhance their engagement with the subject.

**Provide Further Opportunities for Live Performances** - Due to the sheer number of students at Cramlington Learning Village, it can be difficult to organise for large numbers of students to access live performance opportunities, which is something that we want to increase as a department. This academic year We aim to introduce '**Live Lunches**', with

older students and staff performing short music sets during lunchtimes, to enable large numbers of students to access live performances and gain an appreciation of various musical styles. We will also look at further ways to link with our school PSHE department to organise future music performances in assemblies, incorporated into our school Wellbeing Programme.

**Practice Room Access** - We will look to enable practice room access to more students across the year groups. In order to enable this to happen we need to look at ways to potentially fund a member of duty staff to supervise these students whilst using the practise room facilities during breaks and lunch times.

## Further Information

[A DFE Guide for Parents and Young People](#)

[Music Partnership North- Northumberland \(Our Local Music Hub\)](#)

[Helix Arts](#)

[The Glasshouse Centre for Advanced Training](#)

[Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project](#)

[Cramlington Community Choir](#)

[Cramlington Folk Club](#)