

Cramlington Learning Village

Music Development Plan



Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	Sept 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2027
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	3 (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, 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 - Kate Fowler

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.

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 - High School Musical 2027) - 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.

Music Technology Club- This is a brand new offer this year and will allow students to learn about creating their own music using their chromebooks. They will explore how to use Bandlab as a means for composition and arranging software, as well as exploring the use of various recording equipment.



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.

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 Mama Mia 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.

2025/26

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.



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 presented 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 was 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.

Creative Careers Event- Queens Hall Hexham- Our students took part in the Creative Careers Carousel at Queen's Hall, Hexham, an event designed to introduce young people to the wide range of careers available within the creative industries. During the event, students participated in a series of practical workshops exploring areas such as film-making, theatre, stage lighting and sound, dance, makeup and creative arts, prop making and art curation. They gained hands-on experience of different creative roles and discovered that careers in the arts extend far beyond performing. Students also attended a panel discussion with professionals working across the creative industries, where they learned about different career and education pathways and received practical advice about turning their creative interests and skills into future careers.

2026/27

Modulo, Orchestras For All Programme- This year our students will be taking part in the Orchestras for All Modulo Programme, giving them the exciting opportunity to develop their ensemble playing and perform alongside young musicians from other schools. They will rehearse a specially arranged programme of music in school, with parts designed to be accessible for a wide range of instruments and abilities. As part of the programme, students will attend a Modulo Meet at The Glasshouse in Gateshead, where they will join with other school ensembles to form a much larger orchestra. They will work alongside professional orchestral musicians, developing their performance skills, confidence, teamwork and experience of playing as part of a large-scale ensemble, before sharing the music together in an inspiring professional venue.

Fusiliers Band Joint Christmas Concert – Building on the success of our previous collaboration, The Fusiliers Band will return at Christmas for a spectacular joint festive concert alongside our school choir. This provides our students with the invaluable opportunity to rehearse and perform alongside high-level professional musicians, raising aspirations and giving them first-hand experience of the standards, discipline and excitement of professional ensemble performance. It promises to be a real highlight of our musical calendar and a fantastic celebration of music within our school community.



North East Schools Choir Competition – Our rapidly growing school choir has already begun preparations for this exciting regional competition. Students will initially perform alongside and compete against secondary school choirs from

across Northumberland, with the opportunity to progress to the North East final. This will provide an exciting new performance goal for the ensemble, challenging students to develop their vocal technique, musicianship, confidence and ensemble skills while experiencing the excitement of representing our school on a regional stage.

Music Careers Day at Newcastle University – Following the success of our previous visit, we will return to Newcastle University with a new cohort of students to take part in this inspiring event led by the North East Combined Authority Music Hub. Through practical workshops and direct interaction with professionals, students will discover the huge variety of careers available across the music industry and explore the different pathways into them. The experience will help broaden aspirations, challenge perceptions of what a career in music can look like and enable students to connect their musical interests with future education, training and employment opportunities.

Cramlington Community Concert Band – This year will see the exciting launch of Cramlington's very first Community Concert Band, creating an ambitious new musical opportunity for our school and the wider community. Once a month, students, parents,

staff, former students and musicians from across Cramlington will come together to rehearse as one large ensemble, performing an exciting and varied programme of music. The band will give our students the invaluable experience of playing within a much larger ensemble alongside more experienced musicians, while strengthening connections between the school and its community. This is an ambitious new venture, but one with the potential to become a thriving and sustainable part of Cramlington's musical life for years to come.

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 established whole-class singing as an important part of our Year 7 provision, with students initially singing with enthusiasm and confidence. As the year progressed, however, we identified a decline in enjoyment and engagement. Student Voice highlighted repertoire choice as a significant factor, and we have responded by reviewing the songs used, changing the order in which repertoire is introduced and incorporating more contemporary and engaging material.

This year, our focus will shift towards **quality rather than quantity**. We will reduce the amount of repertoire covered, allowing more time to develop each song properly and enabling students to experience the satisfaction of producing a confident, polished whole-class performance. Alongside curriculum singing, we will also introduce **Year 7 assembly singing**, providing regular opportunities for students to sing together as an entire year group. Through carefully selected repertoire, high-quality modelling and more purposeful performance opportunities, our aim is to establish a stronger culture of singing across Year 7 and ensure that students view singing as an enjoyable, positive and valued part of school life.

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.

Sustained numbers of students studying GCSE Music – Following a period of reduced uptake after COVID and the introduction of the EBacc, we have seen a significant resurgence in the number of students choosing to study GCSE Music at Cramlington Learning Village. This year, 30 students have opted to study GCSE Music, representing a substantial increase and demonstrating the direct impact of our strong,

engaging and inclusive KS3 curriculum. Students are developing a genuine passion for the subject earlier in their musical journey and increasingly see GCSE Music as an exciting and achievable option.

Our priority now is to make these increased numbers stable and sustainable, ensuring that strong GCSE uptake becomes embedded year-on-year rather than representing a single cohort increase. We will continue to develop a high-quality KS3 curriculum, provide meaningful enrichment and performance opportunities, identify and nurture students with particular musical potential, and ensure clear progression routes from classroom music into GCSE. Our longer-term ambition is to build upon the current cohort of 30 students and move closer to our previous peak of 42 GCSE musicians, while maintaining the high standards of teaching, engagement and achievement that underpin the growth of 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](#)