

Workington Academy Music Development Plan 2025-6

Detail	Information
Academic year this plan covers	2025-6
Date this summary was published	January 2026 (Due to new staff and later review than planned)
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2026
Name of school music lead	Mrs Allison Murphy (Head of expressive arts) Miss Sarah Bennett (Music teacher with responsibility for Music curriculum)
Name of local music hub	Cumbria

Part A – Curriculum Music

Music is currently delivered by Sarah Bennett. The music department has one full music room and three practice rooms. Practice rooms are equipped with drums kits both electric and full kits, (some on loan to students taking additional lessons) and a range of guitars, bass guitars, amps and violins. There are also school woodwind instruments that are loaned to students, free of charge, who are having co-curricular lessons. There are 2 pianos in the practice rooms, and one is set up as a recording suite, with access to the apple mac laptop and related software. The music classroom has a full suite of keyboards, ukuleles and a range of electric and acoustic guitars and amps. Microphones and speakers are also part of the classroom equipment. The room is situated beside a computer suite that Audacity installed as well as access to other relevant software, to allow for digital editing lessons as well. It is part of the Expressive arts faculty and also has access to the drama studio for lessons and a range of performance spaces including the assembly hall.

The KS3 curriculum has been updated by Sarah Bennett this academic year and is delivered as one lesson per week on rotation. There is currently no KS4 or 5 in music although the offer is available to year 9 as a subject choice.

KS3 curriculum covers a range of topics that ensure a full coverage of the national curriculum.

Music Curriculum									
Year 7									
	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3						
	Keyboard Skills	Keyboard Skills	Great Composers						
Year 8									
	The Blues	Music & Space	Reggae						
Year 9									
	Film Music	Pop Music	Video Game Music						
Music Programme of Study									
	7.1	7.2	7.3	8.1	8.2	8.3	9.1	9.2	9.3
Perform									
Listen									
Evaluate									
Range of historical periods									
genres									
styles and traditions									
great composers and musicians									
compose music on their own and with others									
opportunity to learn a musical instrument									
understand how music is created and produced									
pitch									
duration									
dynamics									
tempo									
timbre									
texture									
structure									
music notation									
use technology appropriately									
Stand alone units on an ad-hoc basis									

Lessons in years 7-9 are delivered in mixed ability groups. Teachers regularly check for understanding and give regular verbal feedback and strong modelling of actions and tasks needed. Students grow in confidence as they perform achievements of each lesson to the class and the students requested to do this are often selected through cold calling ensuring a no opt out policy. Teachers use a range of strategies to build the confidence of students, reinforcing positive behaviour and quality learning through praise and encouragement of student's achievements and efforts to model the activity if they have managed to complete it well or mastered a section of the task.

Part B - Co-curricular

The department employs 3 external musicians to deliver Peri lessons on a weekly basis, and these are offered free of charge to all students. These teachers offer individual and small group lessons on:

- Voice
- Keyboard/piano
- Singing
- Woodwind
- Violin (all above Mrs Humes)
- Guitar: acoustic, electric and bass (Mr Allison)
- Drums, including Samba drums (Mr Kelly)

There are a wide range of extracurricular opportunities open to all including a guitar club on a Friday ran with support from the 6th form students.

Practice rooms are bookable by students and groups and encouraged at lunchtimes and after school.

Choir practice is delivered in groups at lunch and Samba band is available during form time on a Friday.

Musical experiences

As part of the expressive arts faculty, music students work closely with drama students supporting events for each other throughout the school year. These usually include a Christmas showcase of drama supported by music and a Christmas concert in school or at the local church. The choir regularly perform at graduation events for the University of Cumbria as well as performances in local care homes and community centres. Other events have included an open mic in the canteen toward the end of last year and usually have a small drama production and summer showcase of musical talent towards the summer term. Students will perform in the evening for friends and family and then offer the performance again for local feeder school in the area. All performances are free to attend for all students and our community.

The department offers a range of trips and opportunities for students including trips to panto, theatre and other live performances.

In the Future

- As a faculty we would love the to increase the number of weekly lessons a KS3 student has.
- Timetables need to ensure the rotation works evenly across the classes and sets.
- More full school productions.
- An increase in Peri lesson availability, as uptake usually has a waiting list.
- Aspirations to inspire year 9 to take the subject at KS4.

- Timetabled lessons in the computer room to ensure all groups can access technology more fully in lessons.