

# Music development plan summary: Crowdys Hill School

## Overview

| Detail   | Information       |
|--|-------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers   | 2024-2025         |
| Date this summary was published  | November 2025     |
| Date this summary will be reviewed   | December 2026     |
| Name of the school music leads   | Jordan Marvell    |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Donna McLaughlin  |
| Name of local music hub  | Swindon 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.**

At Crowdys Hill School we value The Arts and music is seen as an important subject that all children can take part in and flourish regardless of who they are, or what additional SEN needs they may have. Music forms a unique and expressive way that all our students can gain access to and to communicate. This ability to communicate through music can change the way that our students feel, think and act. It is a way that our students can develop and form their own identities. At Crowdys, we believe that positive interaction with music develops our student’s confidence to learn and increases their self-worth and self-esteem. Music at Crowdys Hill School enables our students to express themselves personally and to share feelings and emotions. Through our extensively differentiated planning and SEN trained staff, high quality lessons are consistently delivered across the different key stages. This means that our students are able to achieve success, ensuring that they progress academically, mentally and physically.

Crowdys Hill School’s music curriculum encourages active involvement in all the different forms of music making, both experienced as an individual and as a community. The highly differentiated lessons ensure that the experience is beneficial to all students by developing key Learning for Life skills like: their ability to listen, to appreciate a wide variety of music, to share musical experiences with others, to express themselves and to share their own ideas, thoughts and judgements about the music they are studying. It also develops our student’s self-discipline, creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and individual fulfilment.

## 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.**

### Weekly Music Lessons

The majority of our lessons are taught by our in-house Music Specialist Teacher with support and guidance being given to other Class Teachers with music on their timetable. Our music lessons are timetabled from Primary through to KS4 as a single 45 minute weekly lesson. Music is delivered in half-termly blocks where a high-quality music education is experienced. Our curriculum is designed so that prior knowledge and skills are built upon by revisiting key learning following a carousel format. Music teaching and assessment is based around listening, composing and performing as well as Learning for Life and transitional skills that the students can take forward into their personal life. Within each of these areas the seven inter-related elements of music are covered (Dynamics, Tempo, Timbre, Texture, Pitch, Structure and Rhythm). Our assessment statements have been written in accordance with the National Curriculum and our schools' ethos of Learning for Life. Adaptations have also been made to include updates from the Model Curriculum for Music (March 2021), non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3 or any other published curriculum guidance. Opportunities students have to learn to sing or play an instrument both individually, or through ensemble teaching. The use of instruments is chosen to reflect the learning and the musical elements being taught within the lessons. Pupils learn to play the piano, ukulele, various tuned and untuned percussion instruments, keyboard and guitar. Students are given the chance to take part in a weekly choir session run by our music specialist teachers. Information on how we adapt/differentiate all lessons across the key stages, including music can be found on our School website.

### Curriculum Performances

All students are given the opportunity to perform what they have been learning/their own compositions for each unit of music throughout the school year. This can take the form of performances to each other in the class, to another class, to another year group or, on a larger scale, in assembly and to parents, or at our annual Music Festival. At Crowdys we empower our student's confidence to share their learning to give it purpose and to ensure that our students with a musical talent have the chance to share and celebrate their achievements.

### Music in Other Subjects

It is imperative to teach our students the understanding that music is everywhere in their day to day life. This understanding creates a realisation and love for the subject and a genuine appreciation of what music means to them personally. Wherever possible Crowdys Hill School creates cross curriculum links to further enhance this understanding of how music impacts all areas of their lives. Within PE students are taught dance where they move and create performances to music, history projects offer opportunities, ie: WWII link in to the music of the time, Art lessons have music playing to further enhance the creative experience, Geography again offers our pupils opportunities to experience the music of the culture/country they are studying. As a Thrive school our students experience opportunities to reflect and carry out simple

meditation to music and opportunities to listen to their own preferred genre of music to help to develop self-regulating strategies.

#### Arts Award (Explore) – Trinity College London

Students in Year 11 participate in activities towards achieving an Arts Award Explore. This qualification encourages our students to experience different art forms and artists, and develop their own creativity. Along the way they record what they've achieved and enjoyed and share it with others. As they work through Arts Award Explore, students build their artistic knowledge, creativity and confidence, they gain a recognised qualification in the process. They research a range of genres, creators and arts organisations, and make full use of their imagination and communication skills. In the past we have visited The Wyvern Theatre to watch the Christmas Panto, worked with external musicians taking part in workshops where our students have had the opportunity to learn about different cultures, musical genres and to take part in group work where they have joined in with the visiting musician. (Information about the award taken from <https://www.artsaward.org.uk>)

## **Part B: Co-curricular music**

**This is about opportunities for pupils to sing, celebrate and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.**

### Choir

Choir takes place every week and is currently open to KS3 – KS5. Choir lessons happen within the school day. The Choir perform during celebratory assemblies throughout the year. The Choir also perform at our Summer Music Festival and put on a yearly Crowdys Christmas Cracker performance to parents and carers. The Choir is run by one of our Music Specialist Teachers.

## **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.**

### Crowdys Got Talent

At Crowdys we hold a yearly creative event run by our Music Specialist Teacher where students are encouraged to apply to be part of the Crowdys Got Talent evening. Pupils are required to prepare and perform a short creative piece to a group of judges and in front of an audience of their peers and school staff. Their chosen piece can take on the form of singing, playing a musical instrument through to telling jokes. From this

performance students are then short listed and then take part in an evening activity where they perform in front of an audience of parents, carers, family and school staff. During this event a decision on the overall winner of Crowdys Got Talent will be arrived at through a voting system. The winner of Crowdys Got Talent will then perform again later that curriculum year at the Summer Music Festival.

### **Summer Music Festival**

This is an annual event which is organised by our Music Specialist Teacher. This event offers our students the chance to perform on stage in front of an audience, as an ensemble or as an individual, taking part in a true-life performance experience. Along with students performing, members of staff and externally booked artists perform on the same stage further enhancing our pupil's exposure to live performances and increasing their appreciation of music. Students are encouraged to come in dressed in festival clothes and to dance and sing along with the performances offering a school wide community event with cohesion across all key stages from Primary through to Sixth form.

### **Crowdys Christmas Cracker**

This is an annual Christmas event which is organised by our Music Specialist Teacher and a team of staff who support our school choir. Our choir spend the lead up to the event learning a range of Christmas songs, both traditional and modern, within their weekly choir session. The event is held on an evening in December and is open to friends and family of our students, and staff. During the event a raffle is held with monies raised in support of a chosen charity. The students enjoy the opportunity of singing their favourite Christmas Carol's to an audience knowing that they are also raising money for a good cause.

### **Pantos**

Our students in various year groups have the opportunity to experience attending the Christmas panto at the Wyvern Theatre where they can be immersed in the full theatrical experience by watching a professional performance involving dance, acting, singing and slap stick entertainment in a formal Theatre setting. We also offer panto performances on site through externally booked theatrical troupes. This ensures that the experience of attending a panto can be offered to a larger audience in the familiar setting of their school for our students who may find The Wyvern Theatre overwhelming.

## **In the future**

**This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.**

- At Crowdys we continually review and adapt our curriculum to suit our ever changing cohorts. Through this review process, we are continually exploring

ways in which we are able to develop musical opportunities whilst deepening our students musical understanding and skills.

- To improve our students, access to music through the development of an outdoor musical instrument area with accessible for all equipment.
- To offer either school time or after school 1:1 tuition for our students who have an interest in learning to play a specific instrument.
- To invite in more musicians, etc, so that our students can listen and watch live performances, enhancing their access to our music curriculum.
- To seek out funding to rejuvenate equipment within the music department.
- To improve staff's confidence in delivering music lessons including both reading and teaching notation. To offer and deliver this training through workshops scheduled throughout the curriculum year.
- To develop students knowledge of music through history and different cultures.

## Further information (optional)

Our Local Music Hub is Swindon Music Service <https://smscio.org>.

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.

Last updated – November 2025