

Music development plan summary: City of Derby Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss C Powell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

The CoDA Music department holds at its heart the belief that music plays an integral role in improving the life chances of all students.

The music curriculum will encourage independent learners who develop a passion for music. Students will grow into critical thinkers who have the confidence to take risks and reflect and adapt their own work.

- Develop a love and appreciation of music along with an awareness of different styles, genres and compositional techniques
- Develop an understanding of the elements of music and use this when writing about, and analysing, music
- Learn to play at least one instrument at KS3 and develop an understanding of notation
- Perform as a soloist and as an ensemble in a wide range of styles
- Compose music in a wide range of styles with an understanding of compositional technique, style and genres.
- Explore the emotive power of music and understand its role as a tool in in our well-being

Part A: Curriculum music

Year 7 and 8 students receive 3 hours of music every 2 weeks and 2 hours every 2 weeks in year 9. GCSE Music students do 3 lessons a week.

The aim of Music Curriculum is to ensure an inclusive provision of music education, for all pupils at Key Stage 3. Students learn about music using 3 key principle – performing, analysing and composing. The genres in each unit are linked to the OCR GCSE Music curriculum of Concerto (Western Orchestral Music), Film music, Rhythms of the world, and pop music. The CoDA Music department will be changing to the EDUQAS GCSE Music course from September 2025. Singing is also important to the curriculum, with regular opportunities to perform vocally and participate in singing workshops. Students also learn to play 2 instruments, keyboard and Ukulele.

The KS3 curriculum is designed to introduce and develop the foundations for any student to progress to KS4 music, regardless of their musical experience at KS2. In each scheme of learning students will be encouraged to engage with the musical genre through practical musical making. Students will develop a knowledge of music notation which will allow them to develop skills as both a soloist and ensemble musician. Students will develop into reflective learners who are able to reflect on their performance, and the performances of others, and challenge themselves to refine their own performance.

Those students who may already play instruments, or have instrumental lessons, will be encouraged to perform pieces using their own instrument with appropriate stretch and challenge for the individual.

Students of music will engage with a wide range of different musical genres and styles, exploring different compositional techniques and creating their own music that shows an understanding of style and technique. Students will reflect on their own work and refine it using self and peer assessment.

Students are encouraged to engage with a wide range of different musical genres and styles, exploring and analysing music with an understanding of its history and context. Students will develop strong foundations in the musical elements which will help them analyse music.

Students will also develop an understanding of the importance of music in culture by exploring a wide range of musical genres and music from around the world, understanding the role music plays in different religions and culture.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Students can take part in instrumental lessons outside of their music lessons, as well as extra-curricular music. Many of our feeders' schools take part in Wider Opportunities and we encourage as many of our year 7 students to continue playing the instrument(s) they learned in Primary School.

To ensure that music improves the lives of all students we have a Pupil Premium Scholarship Scheme which provides students who qualify as PP to have free lessons. Students who qualify for Free School Meals or are SEND can also apply for bursaries through the Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership.

Extra-curricular Music activities are available free to all students and include choir, music technology, Strings group, Solo Practice, Ukulele, and GCSE Revision. Other opportunities are provided by the Music Partnership.

Part C: Musical experiences

Our school provides opportunities for students to experience a wide range of real life music making opportunities and live performances including:

- Students taking part in extra-curricular groups are encouraged to take part in 3 performance a year in our Showcase evenings.
- Links with Derby University Music Department give year 9, 10 and 11 students experience of music beyond the classroom.
- Trips to live performances include musicals, opera, and orchestral performances for all year groups.

In the future

Our music department is ever evolving and growing. In 2025 we took on additional instrumental teachers through the music partnership and successfully appointed a new music teacher. The future of the department is bright.

Future plans for the department are:

- Performance of a musical
- Development of drama as part of the performing arts curriculum
- Performing arts qualification

Further information

<https://www.derbyshiremusicclub.org.uk/home.aspx>

<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/>