

Music Development Plan summary: Ivybridge Community College

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	May 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Headteacher	Mrs Rachel Hutchinson
Name of the school Music Lead	Mrs Mary Webber (acting)
Name of local Music Hub	Devon Music Education Hub

Vision Statement:

We believe music is for everyone. Our inclusive, creative, and dynamic curriculum is designed to help every student reach their full musical potential. Through a balance of performance, composition, and listening analysis, students develop strong musical understanding alongside key transferable skills including teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, and confidence.

Objectives for the year:

1. Maintain and enhance a broad, inclusive curriculum across all Key Stages.
2. Integrate music technology into teaching and composition projects.
3. Increase student participation in music ensembles and extra-curricular activities.
4. As a Lead School of Music, continue collaborating and sharing best practice with other schools in the area and working with Devon Music Hub.
5. Expand opportunities for public performances and community engagement.

Part A: Curriculum Music

Music Curriculum:

All students in Years 7 and 8 receive one hour of music a week; Year 9 students receive one hour a fortnight. Students in Key Stages 4 and 4 receive 9 hours a fortnight. Lessons are guided by the Model Music Curriculum and include the following:

- **Key Stage 3:**
Students perform, compose, and listen to music across a range of styles, including Blues, film music, minimalism, and song-writing. By the end of Key Stage 3, students are able to:

- Perform confidently in solo and ensemble settings with accuracy, fluency, and expression.
- Improvise and compose in a variety of styles and traditions.
- Use musical notation accurately.
- Apply key musical elements, including scales, tonality, and musical devices.
- Listen to and evaluate a wide range of music from different genres and composers.

- **Key Stage 4 – WJEC Eduqas GCSE Music:**

A practical and creative course for students who enjoy listening to, performing, and composing music.

Course Aims:

- Develop performance skills in solo and ensemble contexts.
- Create and develop original musical ideas through composition.
- Understand the connections between performing, composing, and appraising.
- Explore a wide range of musical styles, genres, and traditions.
- Develop creativity, imagination, and musical understanding.
- Use music technology and develop awareness of recording and production.
- Learn to evaluate and reflect on music critically.
- Build independence and confidence as musicians.

Course Content:

- Practical music-making through listening, appraising, performing, composing, rehearsing, and recording.
- Students use software and notation tools to create, record, and refine their work.
- Home learning includes practising performance skills, completing compositions, and listening/theory tasks.

Assessment Overview:

- **Component 1: Performing (30%)**
 - Solo and ensemble performances (4–6 minutes total)
 - At least one ensemble performance required
 - Any instrument, voice, or technology-based option
 - Recorded performance assessment
- **Component 2: Composing (30%)**
 - Two compositions (3–6 minutes total)
 - One set brief from WJEC, one free composition
 - Any style using live, digital, or notation-based methods
- **Component 3: Appraising (40%)**
 - Written exam based on listening and analysis
 - Four areas of study: forms and devices, ensemble music, film music, popular music
 - Focus on musical elements, context, and musical language

- **Key Stage 5 - Level 3 RSL Music Practitioners**
- Vocational, industry-linked course preparing students for careers in the music industry.
- Focuses on modern popular music while developing skills across styles and contexts.
- Students:
 - Develop advanced performance techniques
 - Lead and participate in music-making activities
 - Explore a range of musical styles
 - Gain understanding of the music industry
 - Plan for careers in music
 - Complete an externally assessed unit involving rehearsal skills and live performance
 - Culminate in a large-scale performance project for real-world experience

At Ivybridge we believe that music should be accessible to everyone. A commitment to inclusion is integral and we recognise that every student deserves to attain successful outcomes. We are aware that certain students may require additional, often temporary, support and we work closely with the SENDCO to ensure that the music curriculum is entirely accessible to all SEN learners.

Part B: Extra-curricular Music

Music Tuition

- Instrumental/Singing/LAMDA lessons are available to all students (chargeable). PP students receive heavily subsidised lessons. Lessons are 20 or 30 minutes long and are either individual or in pairs.
- Kick Start Programme: Group tuition in “endangered” instruments such as the trombone and cello are provided for free for a term to allow students to see if they have an aptitude/desire.
- Jam Slam: Group tuition at a reduced cost of £3 per session is provided for those students wanting to learn band instruments (electric/bass guitar, keyboard, drums, vocals).

Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Activities

- Open to all students:
 - Junior Musical Theatre Group
 - Pop Vocals
 - Busking Group
 - Jam Slam
 - Keyboard Club
 - Guitar Club
 - Junior Orchestra
- Advanced ensembles:
 - Senior Orchestra
 - Brass Ensemble

- Flute Ensemble
- String Ensemble
- Wind Band
- Students also engage in:
 - Solo and group performance
 - Open Mic events
 - Battle of the Bands
 - Music technology projects (e.g. Charanga Yu Studio)

Facilities:

- Instruments can be loaned from the Music Department or from Devon Music Hub.
- Dedicated music classrooms and practice rooms are available every break, lunch and after College.
- Music technology suite is available for composing.
- Two recording studios are available for regular use.

As a Lead School of Music, we regularly work with children from the surrounding schools. We run Future Musicians for primary aged children and offer Music Centre on Wednesdays for all age groups.

Part C: Music Events

We are a thriving department and put on regular music events throughout the year, including but not restricted to:

Concerts

- Christmas Concert (December 25)
- RSL Gig (February 26)
- Spring Ensembles Concert (March 26)
- RSL Session Musician Gig (March 26)
- Collaborative concert with the Community Big Band (March 26)
- Rising Talent (June 26)

Productions

- 'Little Shop of Horrors' (January 26)
- 'Aladdin' (July 26)

Festivals/Competitions

- Devon Music Hub Battle of the Bands (November 25)
- Music For Youth festival (March 26)
- WeST Fest (June 26)

Workshops

- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra workshop (November 25) – funded by the College

Trips

- Royal Albert Hall, Plymouth Theatre Royal, Bristol Hippodrome, Plymouth Pavilions

Community

- Ivydene Nursing Home, Primary School Road Show, Watermark

Other

Regular performances in assemblies and at special events such as the Remembrance Service, Celebration Evenings, Open Evenings, Awards Evening, local primary schools etc.

In the future

Objectives for the current year:

1. Maintain and enhance a broad, inclusive curriculum across all Key Stages.
2. Integrate music technology into teaching and composition projects.
3. Increase student participation in music ensembles and extra-curricular activities.
4. As a Lead School of Music, continue collaborating and sharing best practice with other schools in the area and working with Devon Music Hub.
5. Expand opportunities for public performances and community engagement.

Short-term (1 year):

- Increase student involvement in existing ensembles and workshops.
- Introduce new music technology initiatives for composition and recording.
- Strengthen partnerships with local music organisations and community events.

Medium-term (3 years):

- Increase Year 9 lessons to once a fortnight
- Upgrade music facilities and technology resources.
- Expand choral singing within the College.
- Establish an annual school music festival showcasing all ensembles and student work.

Long-term (5 years):

- Foster connections with professional musicians and music organisations for performance and career pathways.

Further information (optional)

Devon Music Education Hub – Lead School of Music
WEST Schools Trust – Performing Arts Festival