

Carnforth High School Music Development Plan Summary

Overview

| Detail | Information |
|--|------------------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025/26 |
| Date this summary was published | October 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | July 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Sean Barnes |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Emmet McGauran (as SLT Link) |
| Name of local music hub | Lancashire Music Hub |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | N/A |

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

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.

The full Music curriculum can be accessed on the school website: [Carnforth High School Music Curriculum](#).

At Key Stage 3, all pupils in Years 7 and 8 receive one hour of classroom music per week. Year 9 pupils receive one hour of music per fortnight. The curriculum is informed by the *Model Music Curriculum (DfE, 2021)* and is designed to develop performing, composing, and listening skills as a continuous 'golden thread' throughout Key Stage 3.

From September 2026, Carnforth High School will offer the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice (2022) as part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. Further information about this qualification can be found on the [Pearson website](#).

Carnforth High School works in partnership with the Lancashire Music Hub and collaborates with music departments across other schools in the Bay Learning Trust. The school currently offers private instrumental tuition in singing, guitar, and drums, with piano, violin, and additional instruments (piano and violin) being introduced in this academic year.

In addition to private lessons, all pupils have opportunities to learn to sing and to play instruments—including keyboard and ukulele—through whole-class ensemble teaching as part of the classroom curriculum.

The Music department is committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), have full access to the music curriculum. Lessons are carefully planned and differentiated to meet a range of needs, with adapted resources, scaffolded tasks, and accessible instrumental parts provided where appropriate. The department works closely with the SEND team to identify and remove barriers to participation, ensuring that every pupil can make meaningful musical progress and take part in performance and creative opportunities.

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

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

Extra-Curricular Music, Choirs and Ensembles

Carnforth High School offers a growing programme of musical opportunities beyond the classroom to support and extend pupils' learning and enjoyment of music.

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

The school currently provides one-to-one and small-group instrumental lessons in **singing, guitar, and drums**, with **piano and violin** tuition being introduced shortly. These lessons are delivered by visiting specialist tutors and take place during the school day. Information about lesson costs, scheduling, and remissions is available from the Music Department. Subsidised or free tuition is available for eligible pupils, including those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

Ensembles and Clubs

Pupils are encouraged to participate in a range of extra-curricular ensembles and clubs, which are open to all year groups and are **free of charge**. Current groups include:

- **Ukulele Club** – developing ensemble skills and popular repertoire.
- **Choir** – open to all pupils, focusing on accessible, multi-part vocal music.
- **Percussion Ensemble** – currently focusing on **boomwhacker** and rhythm-based performance, promoting teamwork and rhythmic accuracy.

Musicians from these groups regularly contribute to **school performances and productions**, including the annual **school show**, assemblies, and community events.

Facilities and Instrument Loans

Pupils have access to **practice rooms**, which can be booked for **independent rehearsal or small band practice**. The department also provides **instrument loans**, including **guitars, keyboards, violins, recorders, and brass instruments**, to ensure all pupils can participate fully in curricular and extra-curricular music activities.

Progression and Wider Opportunities

Beyond school provision, pupils are encouraged to take advantage of local music opportunities through partnerships with the **Lancashire Music Hub, More Music (Morecambe)**, and the **Morecambe Brass Band**, which offer weekend and community-based ensembles, workshops, and performance opportunities.

Through these combined pathways, Carnforth High School nurtures musical confidence, ensemble skills, and sustained progress for all pupils, regardless of background or ability.

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.

Musical Events and Performances

Carnforth High School provides a rich calendar of musical experiences designed to inspire participation, build confidence, and celebrate pupil achievement in music.

Concerts and Performances

The school hosts **termly concerts**, showcasing performances from a wide range of year groups and musical ensembles, including the choir, ukulele club, percussion ensemble, and individual instrumentalists. Participation in concerts is **free of charge**, and performances are open to all pupils who wish to take part. Audience tickets are priced at **£3**, with proceeds supporting the continued development of music at the school.

While many concerts take place on the school site, some events are held in the **local community** to strengthen links and provide pupils with authentic performance experiences. For example, the **Christmas Concert** this year will be hosted at the **local church**, allowing pupils to perform in a professional acoustic setting and engage with parents, carers, and members of the wider community.

Musicians are also heavily involved in the **annual school production**, which provides opportunities for singers, instrumentalists, and technical crew to contribute to a large-scale performance. This is also a great opportunity for music students to collaborate with students from the school's drama and dance clubs.

Assemblies throughout the year also feature musical performances and opportunities for pupils to share their work with peers.

Trips and External Experiences

Pupils are offered **two to three trips each academic year** to attend **musical theatre performances** and other live music events. These trips are designed to broaden pupils' cultural experiences and support classroom learning, particularly for those studying performance and production. Costs are kept **as low as possible**, and **Pupil Premium funding** can be used to subsidise places for eligible pupils to ensure equitable access.

Partnerships and Community Links

The Music Department works closely with the **Lancashire Music Hub** and local organisations such as **More Music (Morecambe)** and the **Morecambe Brass Band** to provide additional workshops, community events, and collaborative performance opportunities. These

partnerships enhance pupils' experiences by connecting them with professional musicians and the wider musical community.

In the Future

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

The Music Department has recently introduced a number of new initiatives to improve the quality and breadth of music provision for all pupils.

Recent Improvements and Planned Developments for Curriculum Music

- Expansion of Instrumental Lessons: One-to-one and small-group lessons in singing, guitar, and drums have been introduced, with piano, violin, and additional instruments planned for the next academic year.
- Curriculum Enrichment: The KS3 curriculum has been strengthened by embedding the *Model Music Curriculum (DfE, 2021)*, with a clear focus on performing, composing, and listening skills as a continuous 'golden thread'.
- Consistency of Lesson Time: Plans are in place to increase lesson time to one hour per week for all KS3 pupils, ensuring a consistent and immersive learning experience.

Recent Improvements and Planned Developments for Co-Curricular Music

- Introduction of Extra-Curricular Clubs: Since Easter, pupils have had access to ukulele club, choir, and percussion ensemble, all free of charge, providing regular ensemble and performance opportunities.
- Termly Concerts: For the first time, the department has introduced termly concerts, including community-based events such as the Christmas Concert at the local church. These concerts give pupils authentic performance experience and strengthen community engagement.
- Instrument Loans and Practice Facilities: The department now provides instrument loans and access to practice rooms, supporting independent learning and ensemble rehearsal.

Recent Improvements and Planned Developments for Musical Experiences

- Trips and Cultural Experiences: Pupils have access to 2–3 trips per year to attend musical theatre performances and other live music events, with costs minimised and Pupil Premium funding available to ensure equitable access.
- Partnerships: Links with the Lancashire Music Hub, More Music (Morecambe), and the Morecambe Brass Band have been strengthened to offer workshops, community projects, and collaborative performance opportunities. We will continue to build further partnerships in subsequent years.

Through these rapid and strategic developments, Carnforth High School has built a Music Department that meets the key features of high-quality music provision. The department

continues to focus on classroom teaching, ensemble work, performance opportunities, access to instruments, and clear progression pathways, ensuring all pupils benefit from a rich, engaging, and equitable musical education.

Within school we will broaden our overall approach to joint 'performing arts' with wider collaboration across other departments and clubs, including building joint productions alongside drama and dance.

From September 2026, Carnforth High School will offer the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice (2022) as part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. Further information about this qualification can be found on the [Pearson website](#).