

Music Development Plan Summary

Ivy House School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Beth Hill
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Hannah Birks
Name of local music hub	Derbyshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Music is delivered through all aspects of our curriculum pathways, music welcomes students into school each day, and is used for all aspects of transitions in school such as the start or end of lesson, snack time and home time, which support students with understanding routines. Students in our Pre-Formal Curriculum learn about music through Sensory Stories, Soundbath, Musical Hydrotherapy, Dance Massage and other immersive opportunities.

Students in our Semi-Formal pathway receive music as part of the 'Expressive Arts' curriculum which is based on the 'My Music' EQUALS curriculum. Students learn about tempo, rhythm, timbre, texture, structure, pitch and dynamics through succinct and meaningful planning. Semi-formal students access a musical experience with two musicians on a half termly basis linked to their topic.

We have specialised equipment such as 'Soundbeam' to support students musical development, the Soundbeam is a 'touch-free' assistive music technology device that turns physical movements into sounds and music. Using sensor technology, it translates any physical gestures into musical notes, enabling people of all abilities to create music. We are passionate about everyone having a meaningful expressive musical experience, regardless of their physical ability.

All students receive music experiences that are delivered by 3 talented music specialists. One specialist works in the Pre-Formal pathway and 2 specialists work in the Semi-Formal pathway.

We have worked in conjunction with Derbyshire Music Hub over the last 2 academic years and have delivered 'Open Orchestras' to a small group of students.

Part B: Co-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.

Ivy House School provides a rich variety of opportunities for pupils to engage with music and our approach to music is holistic, ensuring that music is woven into the fabric of the school day.

Students are encouraged to sing and sign songs, play instruments, and interact with cause-and-effect musical boards on the playground. In addition, they listen to music from different cultures and genres during assemblies and collective worship, fostering an appreciation for global musical traditions.

Throughout the year, Ivy House School offers exciting and engaging musical experiences. For example, in 2025, all students participated in an Indian Drumming Workshop delivered by a local performing arts company. They also had the opportunity to hear Indian drumming at various school events like the Summer Fair. These activities not only enrich the students' understanding of music but also give them practical experience in performing and engaging with diverse musical traditions.

Students attend weekly celebration assemblies and there is an annual end of year awards ceremony where musical talents are celebrated.

Part C: Musical events / 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.

During the academic year 2025-2026 we have planned a variety of musical events and experiences.

Continuous throughout the year:

- Weekly music experiences
- Music used to enhance lessons (e.g. sensory stories, dance massage etc)

- Music used to support transitions and routines (e.g. start/end of day, start of lesson, plenary time)
- Musical hydrotherapy
- Access to specialist equipment (e.g. soundbeam, soundbath etc)
- Music sessions in a weekly enrichment club
- Sing and sign choir

One off events/experiences:

- Christmas Performance (Primary aged pupils)
- Big Top Musical Adventure live performance
- Quite Remarkable live performances
- Local Special School sing and sign choir live performance

In the future

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

We have a number of ambitious plans for the future Ivy House. These include:

- Implementing a dinner time music club provision for our semi-formal learners to aspire to having our own Ivy House Band
- Ensuring that all staff are confident and competent to use specialist music equipment
- Links with local school choirs
- Local musicians to run workshops
- PTFA (Friends of Ivy House) to join the sing and sign choir
- 'Ivy Live' musical festival linked to annual summer fayre and end of year celebration that include a live band
- Our personal aim is to use the Arts as a vehicle by which we can challenge stereotypes that surround SEND

Further information

Derbyshire Music Hub: <https://www.derbyshiremusichub.org.uk/home.aspx>

Open Orchestras: https://www.openorchestras.org/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwI6-3BhBWEiwApN6_krS9U9iWJ_hsJ8WB7EBgry-SSoEh5NG0p_0H_DI-J9X5SK0oir560BoCV1IQAvD_BwE