

Music Development Plan: *Great Torrington School*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Lee Wickenden
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Devon and Torbay Music Education Hubs
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, 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.

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.

Curriculum lessons have a 100 minute a fortnight allocation during KS3 and 300 minutes allocation during KS4.

During KS3 pupils have the opportunity to:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a broad range of music including the works of great composers and musicians.
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

During KS4 pupils are given the opportunity to study on the Eduqas GCSE Music course where they are expected to Perform in an Ensemble and as a Soloist. They will need to Compose music as an individual and produce a Free Composition and a piece of music that follows a brief set by the exam board. During the final year of this course pupils will complete a written exam aimed at testing their listening and appraisal skills gained over the course.

For more, see the school information guidance on curriculum and on SEND for [maintained schools](#) and for [academies and free schools](#).

Currently many of the values of the Model Music Curriculum are present in the Great Torrington School Music Curriculum but lack the details and specifics for listening activities. We do have a good repertoire already but aim to include the MMC examples to add breadth to our listening and performing experiences.

Instrumental progression opportunity is delivered using Rock band instruments with particular focus on Drums, Guitar, Piano and Keyboard.

During Lesson time:

Year 7 start their time at Great Torrington School, using their voices and sing an array of songs in the first term. Year 7 then sing at the Christmas concert to provide performance opportunities for all. During the rest of the year 7 class lessons, they look at World Music providing cultural contexts to the music we hear and study the Musical stave and communication found in Musical scores, such as notation, finger numbers and chords using correct technique.

Year 8 pupils have the opportunity to learn each rock band instrument as a whole class with most instruments being available to share as a pair. Whole class learning is then branched into smaller groups later in projects to create small rock bands. Whilst instruments are learnt, different genres will be explored to capitalise on time in lessons and give the performances specific direction in the lesson. At the end of the year, everyone then records their music using the school recording studio.

Year 9 pupils start the year using their keyboard skills in lessons to compose a piece of film music in pairs using Logic Pro X. Band instruments are then used to play a range of repertoire from different styles and genres from Country to 20th Century Minimalism. At the end of the year, all will create band and compete in the school Battle of the Bands Competition.

Music Curriculum information can be found in this link: [Performing Arts | Great Torrington School \(gts.devon.sch.uk\)](https://www.gts.devon.sch.uk/performing-arts)

To support our musical community, we have several peripatetic staff who teach a range of Instruments outside of the curriculum but often work within projects to support and extend the learning in class. Instruments offered at GTS: Voice, Piano, Keyboard,

Violin, Trumpet, Cornet, Trombone, Euphonium, Guitar, Bass, Drums, Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute. Many of our pupils successfully go on to take grades in these disciplines.

We also have a working relationship with our local Music Hub which provide our pupils with a number of opportunities in and out of school. These range from free whole class sets of instruments, Instrumental and Vocal Ensembles, to competitions in the county.

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.

As mentioned in Part A, Peripatetic music teachers play an integral role at GTS, providing opportunities to all who want to learn and a sense of community and camaraderie amongst fellow musicians. Most lessons are offered on a one-to-one basis; this extends to all disadvantaged pupils.¹

To sign up to Music lessons at GTS please use the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MvsAjPRK50K8fPpadfr2f9Gs5O_br31Hjs-nKVP6sdUNkQwSE5aNlo1MTFOWjBOMkJSMINRTUc0RiQIQCN0PWcu

Instruments are available via the Devon Music Education Hub², who offer a subsidised instrument hire service for children and young people, priced at £33 per term, with a reduced rate of £11 per term for children and young people eligible for Free School Meals.

At GTS, the majority of pupils need to use transport to and from school; this impacts what can be offered in the music department. Most clubs are run at lunch times to cater for all pupils.

Extra-curricular activities include:

- A Jazz Band
- Year 7 Band
- Christmas Band and Choir

¹ Currently, Pupils entitled to Free School Meals have a 100% subsidy towards Instrumental and vocal lessons. Pupil Premium have a 50% subsidy, unless they study GCSE Music where 100% of fees are paid for.

² Follow this link for Instrument hire: [Hiring an instrument - Devon and Torbay Music Education Hubs](#)

- GTS Rocks Choir
- Tech Club (Composing) (Mac-based Logic)
- Bookable Practise Rooms are available for Lunchtime rehearsals for all including individuals and bands – To book come to the music room and sign up.

**All clubs in school are free to attend and to join simply arrive during the correct time: Timetables for clubs are given during tutor notices.*

Local Music groups that offer after-school/weekend/holiday music tuition include:

- Chulmleigh Music Academy (Lamda Qualification can be taken here)
<https://www.chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Music+Tuition+%26amp%3B+Ensembles&pid=58>
- Teachers Rock Choir – for pupils and adults
- North Devon Music Centre
<https://www.northdevonmusiccentre.co.uk/>
- South West Music School
<https://www.swms.org.uk/>
- Ukulele Orchestra of North Devon
<https://www.facebook.com/TheUkuleleOrchestraOfNorthDevon>
- The Plough Arts Centre – Torrington
[The Plough Arts Centre | Performing Arts Theatre, Cinema and Cafe](#)

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.

During a typical year at Great Torrington School will organise a range of performances from whole school events to GCSE Showcases.

This year our pupils performed at the following events:

- Christmas Concert at All Saints Church in Torrington – This provides a singing opportunity for all year 7s and volunteer performances from all year groups.
- A Musical – All years can join the musical and rehearsals are conducted in the E&I (Enrichment and Intervention) timetabled sessions
- Exeter Cathedral Visit
- Summer Concert – Year 10 GCSE Pupils and Emerging talent.
- Year 9 Battle of the Bands Final
- Year 8 MTV Music Video Awards (Recording Studio Project)

- Performance at the Devon County Show for the Choir and Jazz Band – Westpoint, Exeter.
- Various venues for Rock Bands such as Torrington Town Hall, Bideford Music Festival, Big Sheep's Trystock, Shebfest and Mayfair.
- Work experience was also taken with Royal Marine Band in Plymouth.

Trips and further Musical Experiences:

- Visits to West End Musicals such as Six, Matilda and Hamilton
- Signed artist workshops on Performance and Mental Health
- Bi-annual Musical and Culture trips to London and New York.

During the next Academic Year (2024-25), GTS are committed to providing the following performance opportunities: Christmas Concert, Musical, Battle of the Bands, MTV Challenge, Devon County Show, Summer concert.

Other Experiences will include: a visit to a Musical Performance and Orchestral workshops from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. This would incur a charge but this year we hope to host the event which would alleviate any transport cost involved. We would also be looking to host workshops with the Royal Marine Band in this academic year. (2024-25) Opportunities will be a continued focus at GTS throughout the year.

To join in with concerts and activities or simply be part of the audience, look out for notices and register interest with the Performing arts department.

In the future

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

During the forthcoming academic year (2024-25) the Music Department will aim to achieve the following:

We will aim to be more aligned with the NPME by adding more listening opportunities and provide more written notation for musical tasks, alongside current schemes of learning.

At present, we are on a journey to add more traditional notations to lessons and this has already begun with year 7 showing note values, pitch and fingerings. This will be added to in subsequent year groups to support the development of the fully rounded musician at KS3.

SOL will be expanded in year 8 to open up a chance to learn about genres of Music and their origins on the instruments we play in KS3.

Composition will also get a focus in KS3 lessons, providing a chance to develop skills in this area. This will be in workshop style lessons added to some of the SOL so that there is an opportunity for individual Composition during lesson time.

Continue to invite more performers into schools to give opportunities for all to see more varied music.

Continue to evaluate GCSE Music results and provide training or targeted support where needed.

Explore increasing number of pupils opting to study GCSE Music.

GTS will continue to provide the space to rehearse for individuals, bands and music tech pupils in break and lunch in school time and after school. Instrument and vocal lessons will continue at GTS as mentioned above in this document. Any individual enquires about alternative instruments please email the Head of Music, Lee Wickenden.

We will continue the Choir, Jazz Band and create a school orchestra to allow all musicians from beginners to the accomplished to perform together at our concerts at Christmas and Summer. We will also be a part of the Musical in Spring.

At present there is not the option to add extra time to the music lesson as the timetable will not allow this.

Further information

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

Link to the NPME - [national plan for music education](#)