

Great Torrington School

Music Development Plan Summary 2025–2026



Overview

Academic year that this summary covers	2025–2026
Date this summary was published	1 September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mark Pluckrose
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Tanya Tillier
Name of local music hub	Devon Music Education Hub
Partnership organisations	Devon & Torbay Music Education Hub and local music education partners

Part A: Curriculum Music

Curriculum Music at Great Torrington School is built on a coherent progression from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. Across Key Stage 3, pupils develop core musical understanding through a sequence of carefully structured units that introduce vocal work, instrumental skills, ensemble participation, the development of musical literacy, and exposure to a broad range of cultural traditions. These studies prepare pupils for the demands of Key Stage 4 by familiarising them with creative exploration, performance confidence, and analytical listening. At Key Stage 4, pupils follow the Eduqas GCSE Music course, which integrates performing, composing and appraising into a holistic programme. Pupils engage deeply with musical forms and devices, ensemble contexts, film music and popular idioms, supported by a curriculum that balances technical skill-building with creative development. This approach ensures that all pupils, including those with additional needs, can access and succeed in Music through personalised scaffolding, structured support materials, modelling, and access to rehearsal spaces and technology.

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 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.

Part B: Co-curricular Music

Co-curricular music is central to the culture of Great Torrington School. Pupils are encouraged to participate in singing and instrumental opportunities beyond lesson time, developing confidence, discipline and teamwork. The school choir, supported by the local music hub, provides an inclusive vocal ensemble experience alongside instrumental ensembles and informal music-making groups. A thriving peripatetic programme allows pupils to learn a wide variety of instruments, with lessons delivered individually or in small groups. Uptake is strong across year groups, and disadvantaged pupils are supported to access tuition where needed. Regular access to practice rooms enables independent rehearsal, while the recording studio offers opportunities for pupils to develop technical skills in a professional environment. This broad offer supports musical progression for learners at all stages and underpins the school's ethos of widening participation in the arts.

Part C: Musical Experiences

Pupils at Great Torrington School benefit from a rich programme of musical experiences that extend learning beyond the classroom. The school hosts a well-established annual Christmas concert in the community, providing pupils with the opportunity to perform in a formal setting and celebrate their achievements. Each year the school also stages a major musical theatre production involving students across multiple disciplines; these productions provide large-scale performance opportunities and foster collaboration across the Performing Arts. Throughout the year, pupils take part in additional events such as workshops, visiting artist sessions, studio recording experiences, informal performance platforms and seasonal concerts. These experiences help nurture confidence, cultural awareness and a sense of belonging within the school's musical community.

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.
- GTS E&I 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)



Facilities

The school is well equipped with high-quality facilities that support the delivery of Music across all key stages. The Music department includes dedicated teaching rooms, a fully equipped music technology suite with industry-standard software, multiple practice rooms that accommodate individual and small-group rehearsals, and a recording studio used for GCSE coursework and enrichment activities. These facilities enable pupils to access a variety of learning environments, from focused instrumental practice to collaborative ensemble rehearsals and technologically supported composition work. The availability of specialist equipment enhances curricular and co-curricular provision, ensuring that pupils can develop both traditional and modern musicianship skills in a contemporary setting.

Our provision includes the following:

- Drama studio with a maximum capacity of 200 including Video projection, Full PA system with radio mic and Lighting rig with Intelligent moving lights
- Backstage area with loading bay doors, Costumes, Props and Stage systems 'Q-Build' Staging
- Lighting and sound control room with Zero 88 Jester 24 channel professional lighting desk, Allen and Heath Zed 24 channel professional sound desk CD Mixer and Ableton live intro and Launchpad
- Music Technology room with 15 Apple Macs with Cubase, Ableton, GarageBand and iMovie with Midi Keyboards
- Music Ensemble room with 5 practice rooms including Pianos, Drum Kits and Keyboards
- Acoustic Guitars, Electric Guitars, Bass Guitars and Amplifiers
- Various Percussion, wind and brass instruments
- DJ suite with Cubase and Ableton live intro with Launchpad, Synthesiser and DJ Decks and mixer
- Recording Studio with Apple Mac Pro and Allen and Heath Zed 24 channel professional sound desk

Inclusion

The Music curriculum is designed to be inclusive, providing structured pathways for all learners, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. Differentiated resources, scaffolded composition templates, guided listening frameworks and tailored rehearsal opportunities ensure that pupils can access musical learning at an appropriate pace. Pupil Premium learners are further supported through subsidised access to instrumental tuition, loan of school instruments and additional rehearsal supervision where required. The school monitors uptake of peripatetic provision to ensure that participation reflects the diversity of the school community and that barriers to involvement are addressed swiftly. This commitment to inclusion ensures that Music remains a subject where every pupil can develop their potential and participate fully in the cultural life of the school.



In the Future

Future development priorities focus on enhancing the quality and breadth of musical opportunities available to pupils. The department will continue to refine its use of recording technology to support performance coursework and develop technical skills. Plans include expanding ensemble provision, increasing opportunities for rehearsals during lunch and after school, and strengthening the sequencing of curriculum content to reinforce progression between key stages. Continued collaboration with the local music hub will support staff development, enrichment activities and pathways into musical opportunities beyond school. The department will also build upon its assessment and moderation processes, ensuring that pupils are well supported in the lead-up to examinations and that the curriculum evolves in response to pupil need, educational developments and artistic ambition.

