

Music development plan summary: *Longcause Community Special School*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Beth Carpenter
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Trudi Skinner
Name of local music hub	Plymouth Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	- Plymouth Youth Music Service - Plymouth Teachers and School Alliance (PTSA). Music Hub

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

Intent

What will our pupils experience throughout their Expressive Arts curriculum at Longcause?

We aim to create an environment where pupils are supported to express themselves safely and communicate meaningfully with others. We aim to inspire our pupils to cultivate their own personal interest in Expressive Arts, growing their cultural capital through a diverse and creative curriculum.

Why do we want this?

We strive to:

- Inspire positive personal expression in our students.
- Develop students ability to communicate with others confidently and effectively with others through a creative outlet

- Grow students' cultural capital through their experience of a wide range of creative cultural influences.

Implementation

Music at Longcause is delivered as part of Expressive Arts through 'Music' and 'Music and Movement' Each of these is taught over a term, once per year, with Drama being taught over the third term. (See [curriculum map](#) for details).

To ensure total coverage, each area of Expressive Arts (Music & Movement, Drama and Music), is taught through three separate schemes of work, following a progression where key skills are rehearsed and built upon. Ultimately, class teachers assess the scheme that is best fit for their pupils although generally, Explorers Primary pupils access 'Pre Scheme A', Secondary Explorer and Primary Adventurers will access Scheme A and Secondary Adventures along with Pioneers will access Scheme B. This enables maximum opportunity for pupils to access the whole curriculum and hone key skills throughout their time at school.

We recognise that Music is a subject that lends itself well to cross curricular learning. Therefore we are keen to promote opportunities to extend and rehearse students' learning through other subjects, including but not limited to, Music with R.E and MFL, Drama within English and dance within PE. Within our Early Years based Primary Explorers curriculum, students use music and song throughout the day at the start and end of lessons, specific timetabled songs daily and weekly 'Exploring my Imagination and Creativity' sessions.

Impact:

- Promotion of wellbeing and building self esteem through learning positive self expression
- Develop their communication and relationship building skills through engagement with peers and working towards a common goal
- Enrichment of pupils' cultural capital by exposing them to a range of experiences that they may not have encountered before as well as perhaps leading to a special interest that furthers wellbeing and supports personal relationships outside of school
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Pre explorers and Explorers - songs and rhymes throughout the day at the start and end of lessons as well as specific timetabled songs at least once a day

Explorers plus - music curriculum

Adventurers - music block one term per year and music/movement one term per year

Songs used to teach MFL

Year 11 - Option to continue an interest in Expressive Arts through Duke of Edinburgh award

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.

Guitar and piano lessons - currently 5 pupils with tutoring.

Duke of Edinburgh - skills is music lessons

Ukulele club

Singing club

Wednesday Primary Explorers music session- sing, sign and play

Woodfest - opportunity for a group music workshop

African drummers - external provider attends the school in line with the curriculum for experience of another culture's music.

Indian dancers external provider attends the school in line with the curriculum for experience of another culture's dance with music.

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.

Fortnightly assembly - all children attending sing together

Annual Longcause's Got Talent show where pupils get to showcase their music.

Concerts shows - Woodfest held at a local special school.

Musical theatre- Matilda- January 2026 is booked.

Christmas and Easter Service

Christmas Nativity

In the future

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

We wish to improve our music provision for our pupils and intend to do so by the following:

Oct 2026 when Beth returns from maternity we will use her to offer Music intervention to Explorers as this was successful before she left.

Indian Drummers will be booked in again, allocated budget for this.

Music tuition, will be offered. We are considering who to use.

Cultural days, 3 times per year with Music from other cultures experienced.

Review of music development this year:

2025/26

Planned activities	Impact/Progress
Music and Movement- Beth will plan around topics on progression map although it is fine for individual teachers to use the learning objectives to plan activities around a different topic if this will be more suitable for their class.	Beth led training before going on maternity leave and staff confidence grew. Teachers are able to adapt the learning for the classes in front of them and successfully develop the children's skills.
Plan for pupils to use musical instruments every year in term 6. When planning for playing instruments, relevant classes will need to decide how to share resources. Beth to show/make a video showing the instruments we have and demo how to play them.	African drumming workshop was successful in engaging pupils in term 5 in preparation for accessing the drumming in term 6.
Singing will be accessed during assemblies	Pupils have access to songs every fortnight in assemblies. Music has makaton and the lyrics on the screen to support pupils
Staff training (two dates already planned in)	This was achieved and staff confidence has grown.
Some pupils to complete music accreditation- 'Music Development Award' at Woodlands School	Put on hold due to maternity leave
Beth to attend music training with Plymouth Music hub	This was cancelled by the music hub