

Music development plan summary: Carre's Grammar School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	03/02/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ruth Quinton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Hayley Goymer
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire 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 the 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.

Pupils in Key Stage Three participate in timetabled curriculum lessons for one hour a week. At Key Stage Four, students receive lessons five times over a fortnight. The curriculum supports students in developing their theoretical, historical and contextual understanding of music through practical application. Performance skills are strengthened through regular rehearsal, and students are encouraged to perform to their peers. Compositional technique is also developed, with students analysing their own pieces to deepen understanding of what contributes to a successful composition.

Across the schools in the Trust, including Carre's, there is a strong emphasis on Quality First Teaching. Shared teaching and learning protocols promote consistency, and the curriculum is designed to be ambitious, challenging and continually building on prior knowledge. Adaptive teaching strategies ensure the curriculum is accessible to all learners, and there is a strong focus on promoting a growth mindset—encouraging students to find their inner musician and develop resilience, particularly when encountering mistakes during performance.

The curriculum is shaped with consideration of the prior knowledge students are expected to have when joining in Year Seven, and it builds towards the skills and understanding needed for GCSE Music. It is centred around the four key areas outlined in the Model Music Curriculum (2021): **singing, listening, composing and performing**.

Across the Trust, pupils join from more than 40 feeder primary schools, resulting in a wide range of musical experiences. At the beginning of Year Seven, baseline listening assessments are undertaken and information about previous musical experience, instrumental or vocal tuition, and any graded exams is collected. This helps teachers tailor the early curriculum to the students' needs.

The learning journey exposes students to a wide range of musical styles and encourages them to consider the historical and contextual influences behind different genres. This supports the promotion of cultural diversity and British Values, with students developing mutual respect, individual liberty and tolerance through shared musical experiences and discussions.

Students have access to computers and keyboard for their music lessons. Students develop their performing ability on the keyboard, learning to play melodies, chords and bass lines. Students are also given the opportunity to learn to play the guitar and develop their skills on their own musical instruments. Students learn to play both individually, in pairs, in small ensembles and in whole-class performances.

Alongside solo performance, composition work is an important part of our curriculum. In Year 8 students compose ground bass compositions, fanfares and programme music. In Year 9 they work on their own film music scores and computer game music.

Students can progress to study Music at **GCSE, BTEC or A Level**, and through the peripatetic service offered by the schools and Lincolnshire Music Service, they can undertake graded examinations in both performance and theory.

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.

Students can take instrumental and vocal lessons through our peripatetic offer. We have a variety of lessons available across the week, and these are taught as one-to-one lessons are provided by Lincolnshire Music Services. We currently have 5 teachers covering upper strings, lower strings, brass and woodwind. These are paid for lessons with remissions available for FSM students. We also employ 3 instrumental teachers directly and these provide piano and drum lessons.

There are many activities throughout the academic year for students to develop their love of music. The department have weekly sessions with the school band and junior choir, and we also have a composition club focusing mainly on the GCSE musicians but do encourage all year groups to attend. We also have the chamber choir and keyboard club.

There are many ensemble groups to get involved in within school. Over the academic year these will include the School Band, a String Ensemble, School Choir, Guitar Ensemble and Student-led bands.

Our ensembles are open to all and are not audition based. We like to encourage our older students to take the lead, and we are always delighted to see our more experienced students arranging music for ensembles, supporting our younger students and conducting.

Many students like to visit the department at breaks and lunchtimes, and we offer rehearsal space for as many students as we can.

Students studying music at KS4 are invited to attend live musical performances.

Some of our musicians are involved in the Cathedral Choirs, National Youth Orchestra, National Youth Choir, Lincolnshire Youth Orchestra, Lincolnshire Youth Wind Orchestra and other local ensembles.

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.

In School Performances

The department holds regular concerts, usually towards the end of the Autumn and Spring terms. All Year 7 students perform in the Christmas concert, singing a piece prepared in class and showcasing the talents of our younger students. Within the local area, students visit primary schools to demonstrate instruments and encourage pupils to take up instrumental music.

We also host an annual Taiko Drumming workshop for Year 7, which continues to be a firm favourite.

Within the Trust

We work collaboratively with Kesteven and Sleaford High School, giving our students opportunities to perform with other young people within the Trust. This partnership also enables teachers to share ideas and to create larger ensembles, enriching musical experiences and broadening repertoire.

Opportunities This Year

In the summer term, we host a 'Giant Orchestra Day', supported by Lincolnshire Music Services. Students work on several pieces throughout the day before performing them in an afternoon concert for visitors and parents. The event attracts around 200 musicians from Carre's Grammar School, Kesteven and Sleaford High

School, and local partner schools, strengthening links with primary schools and supporting continuity for students transitioning into secondary music education. Students also visit care homes at Christmas, participate in local events such as the Mayor's Charity fundraising activities and Remembrance Day, and have opportunities to attend concerts at the Nottingham Royal Concert Hall.

Pricing and Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium funding supports GCSE music students in purchasing their own instruments and contributes towards the cost of music department trips. Smaller concerts and events are often free or donation-based, while larger events are ticketed, with subsidised tickets available for Pupil Premium students.

Lincolnshire Music Services charge students independently for instrumental and vocal lessons.

Performance Opportunities

A wide range of performance opportunities is offered throughout the year, including formal events such as prize-giving and the whole-school Carol Service at St Denys', as well as informal concerts and larger-scale events in the school hall.

In the future

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

As a department we would like to ensure that every pupil has access to as many musical opportunities as possible and we would like to encourage students to attend concerts and events.

We would like to improve access to instrumental lessons for those with limited incomes, especially families with sibling who also was to learn an instrument.

Consider ways to further establish links with local primary schools and other schools with CIT to promote music lessons and potential collaborations between choirs or bands for larger concerts within our school.

It is an ambition to get music as part of the Sixth Form enrichment programme.

Improving our rewards and recognition opportunities for students who participate in school ensembles and extending this beyond the music department.

We work hard to promote and encourage student participation in these activities, and we review and adjust our extra-curricular offer each year to reflect the interests and needs of the students.