

THE HARMONY TRUST

Cavendish Close Junior Academy

Music development plan summary

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Katie Bevan Mrs Michelle Tague
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership (DDMP)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

At Cavendish Close Junior Academy, we are proud to have been awarded an official Music Mark of recognition for 'Dedication and Improvement in Music Education' for the 2025/26 year. Our music curriculum is designed to engage and inspire all pupils, fostering a lifelong love of music while nurturing their individual talents as musicians. Through this creative journey, children build self-confidence, develop their imagination, and experience a strong sense of achievement. We have written a music curriculum which consists of content from DDMP handbells schemes, DDMP brass teaching, DDMP singing tuition, Derby Cathedral – national school's singing programme tuition and the royal opera house, Carmen. This ensures the children receive a comprehensive and high-quality music education.

We aim for all pupils to:

- Understand the interrelated dimensions of music.
- Explore the work of musicians and composers from both historical and contemporary contexts.
- Learn to play a musical instrument.
- Compose original and imaginative pieces.
- Use musical notation to record and express their ideas.
- Develop vocal technique and confidence in singing.
- Enjoy opportunities to perform and share their musical learning.

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We are committed to ensuring that music is accessible to every child. We adapt our teaching approaches and resources to meet the needs of disabled pupils and those with SEND.

This includes:

- Providing accessible instruments and assistive technology.
- Offering differentiated tasks and personalised support.
- Creating inclusive performance opportunities.
- Collaborating with specialist staff to remove barriers to participation.
- Fostering an environment where every child feels valued and able to express themselves musically.

Key Components

Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership (DDMP): Year 3, year 5 and year 6 pupils have the opportunity to learn handbells, following plans from the DDMP. Year 4 pupils have the opportunity to receive instrumental lessons from a professional musician, to play a brass instrument – enhancing their learning experience and fostering a deeper understanding of music. Year 3 pupils have the opportunity to learn singing skills with a trained professional.

Royal Opera House (Carmen): Year 5 pupils take part in a 5 – lesson programme to learn the story of Carmen, learn songs from the opera and explore the basics of dramatic singing technique. They also learn to stage a scene, which is performed to parents.

Derby Cathedral – national school's singing programme tuition: High quality musical education through school-based, whole class singing sessions, which are delivered by a team of professional musicians.

Instrumental Resources

Percussion instruments: pupils across all year groups have access to a variety of percussion instruments including handbells, allowing them to explore rhythm and texture in music.

Brass: Year 4 children have the opportunity to learn to play a brass instrument (trumpet or trombone) where they learn dynamics, texture, pitch and playing as part of an ensemble, amongst many other skills.

Music Technology: Integrated into the curriculum, music technology tools (iPads) help pupils compose, record and produce their own music – providing a modern and relevant music education.

Year Group Breakdown

Year 3

Developing a deeper understand of the inter-related dimensions such as pitch, dynamics and timbre.

Playing the handbells and percussion instruments with more proficiency.

Introduction to simple composition and improvisation activities.

Introduction to musical notation.

Lessons with Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership building up to a performance of 'Carnival of the Animals'.

Year 4

Instrumental lessons: Access to instrumental lessons through the DDMP.

Enhanced focus on playing instruments, including learning to play a specific instrument.

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Musical notation.

Composing short pieces of music.

Integrating music technology in lessons for recording and creating music.

Year 5

Advanced rhythm, melody and harmony concepts.

More complex compositions and improvisations.

Performing individually and as part of a group, with an emphasis on ensemble playing – focusing on the handbells.

Year 6

Preparing for transition to secondary school with advanced musical skills, linked to improved mental health.

Detailed study of different music genres and history.

Creating and performing complex compositions using a range of instruments and music technology.

End of year musical performance, showcasing skills learned throughout junior school.

Singing lessons each week to build up to a year group ensemble at Derby Cathedral.

Our music curriculum is designed to offer every child a diverse and enriching musical journey, nurturing both their skills and enthusiasm in a supportive and imaginative setting. By collaborating with the DDMP and Derby Cathedral, we ensure that pupils benefit from a comprehensive and high-quality music education.

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.

At Cavendish Close Junior Academy, we are dedicated to offering our pupils enriching musical experiences beyond the classroom. Our co-curricular music programme features a wide range of engaging activities that enhance students' learning, develop their musical skills and inspire a lifelong appreciation for music.

Link Learning

- Opportunities to learn either the guitar or the piano.
- Opportunities to perform to an audience to showcase what they have learned.

Rock Steady

- Opportunities to learn a musical instrument and be part of a band.
- Performances to parents at the end of every term.
- Open to all pupils, with subsidised places for some pupils.

Weekly Music Assemblies

- Whole-school singing and learning musical vocabulary.

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- To build a strong school community through shared musical experiences and to enhance pupils' understanding of musical concepts.
- Singing as a large ensemble and reinforcing musical terms and concepts taught in lessons.

Choir

- Opportunities to sing as an ensemble.
- Opportunities to perform to an audience in the community.

Young Voices

- Open to all pupils in Years 4-6.
- Perform in the local community as representatives of Cavendish Close Junior Academy.
- Participation in large-scale performances, including the opportunity to sing as part of a massed choir in Birmingham.
- Develops pupils' singing abilities, performance skills and confidence while fostering a sense of pride and achievement.
- Singing in two parts.

Recorder Club

- Develop technical skills alongside being able to listen to each other and follow a conductor.
- Pupils read and interpret music notation, rhythms and dynamics alongside exploring musical structure and expression.
- Opportunities to perform in assemblies, concerts and at community events.

Musical Theatre Club

- Opportunities to read scripts and scores, follow musical cues, and develop listening skills.
- Collaborative Ensemble Work to sing, act and dance as a group, applying timing, coordination and musical communication.
- Performance opportunities for pupils to rehearse and perform in school productions, assemblies, or community events. These performances build confidence and stage presence.
- Pupils explore character-driven singing, learning to convey emotion and story through music, and to develop phrasing, dynamics, and articulation in context.
- Allows pathways to further musical involvement and builds foundational skills for future participation in school or community ensembles.

Dance Club

- Weekly after school club, which runs for approximately 9 weeks to choreograph, learn and rehearse a dance.

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- End point: opportunity to perform the dance at the Celebration of Dance festival at Derby theatre.

Through these co-curricular activities, Cavendish Close Junior Academy ensures that pupils receive a well-rounded and inspiring music curriculum, creating memorable experiences and nurturing a deep appreciation for 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.

At Cavendish Close Junior Academy, we believe that music is an essential part of a well-rounded education. Our pupils experience a rich variety of musical activities and performances throughout their time at school – fostering their musical skills, confidence and enjoyment. ‘Be a Performer’ is one of the Harmony Trust Pledges, which underpins our values for all pupils.

Young Voices

- Weekly rehearsals for an hour a week to sing as an ensemble.
- Perform at the arena in Birmingham which involved schools across the country to perform as a huge ensemble.
- Parents attend the performance at the arena to watch in the audience.
- The children also have the opportunity to perform to the rest of the school and an additional performance to parents who can’t attend the performance at the arena in Birmingham.

Singing at the local Church

- Children rehearse Christmas carols throughout the Autumn term and perform at the local church as part of a shared carol concert.
- Children are also an audience to members of the local church who act out the Christmas story to the children.

Choir Performances

- Weekly rehearsals after school to prepare to sing to an audience – parents and families are invited in as the audience.
- Opportunities to sing in the local shopping centre as part of a choir competition.
- Children perform to a local residential care home in the community.
- Enhances community spirit, provides professional level performance experiences

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Year 6 Leavers Production

- Summer term production to parents, the school and the infant school.
- A special production only featuring year 6 pupils to celebrate their time at Cavendish Close Junior Academy.
- Combines acting, singing and dancing alongside some instrumental performances.

Year 3 Nativity

- Autumn term production to parents, the school and the infant school.
- A special production only featuring year 3 pupils to tell the Nativity story.
- Combines acting, singing and dancing alongside some instrumental performances.

Whole School Singing Performances

- Live recording as part of the Kenya Link.
- Live celebration of Bob Marley's birthday worldwide.
- Live 'Wicked' collaboration.
- Young Voices live performance in assembly.

Inter-school Choir Performances

- Opportunities to perform at and alongside the infant school and local secondary schools.
- The opportunity to watch performances by children at these schools.
- Opportunities to perform at the Derby Cathedral alongside other schools in Derby for a performance to celebrate their learning at the end of the year.
- Helps pupils experience a variety of musical styles and settings, enhancing their overall musical education.

ACEs day

- Opportunities to learn and play the handbells as an ensemble and experience dance and song together.

Live Productions

- Companies perform pantomimes and live productions to the children to aspire them to take part in performing arts.
- Year 5 performance of Carmen to parents.
- Robin Ball – a musician from the National Youth Orchestra led an aspirational assembly and performed music to the children.

Drumba

- Weekly sessions for the children to take part in Drumba sessions with their class.

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- After school Drumba club opportunities for the children.

Weekly Musical Theatre Club

- Weekly after school sessions to learn the skills to work collaboratively to perform a play.
- Opportunity to perform to parents at the end of each term.

Celebration of Dance

- Weekly after school club to learn and rehearse a dance.
- Opportunity to perform the dance at the Celebration of Dance festival at Derby theatre.

Shakespeare Club

- Weekly after school club during the Spring term to learn and perform a Shakespeare play as a group.
- Opportunities to perform the play alongside other schools in the trust at Derby theatre.

Through these diverse musical experiences, Cavendish Close Junior Academy ensures that every pupil has the opportunity to develop their musical abilities, gain confidence in performing and create lasting memories. Our comprehensive approach to music education aims to inspire a lifelong love of music in every student.

In the future

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

At Cavendish Close Junior Academy, we are dedicated to continuously enhancing our music programme to provide our pupils with enriching and diverse musical experiences. Looking forward, we have exciting plans to further develop our music offerings.

Expanded access to performances

- Organise trips to local theatre productions and musical performances and invite more professional musicians and ensembles to perform at the school to expose pupils to a broader range of musical genres and professional performances.

Cavendish Close Junior Academy aims to nurture our pupils' musical talents and interests, giving them more opportunities to explore and enjoy music both inside and outside the

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classroom. Our future plans are designed to inspire a lifelong passion for music and to equip our students with the skills and experiences they need to thrive as musicians and individuals.