

Music development plan summary: Penrice Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Peter Brodey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Claire Gurd
Name of local music hub	ASONE Hub
Name of other music education organisations	Cornwall Music Service Trust

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.

Curriculum music

Students at Penrice Academy currently study music as part of their extensive and varied timetable offer across Key Stage 3.

Students are timetabled one 75-minute lesson over the two-week timetable which equates to 24 hours over the academic year. All timetabled music lessons are planned, taught and delivered by subject specialist teachers. During these timetabled lessons students have the opportunity to engage with and develop their knowledge and skills in music through performing, composing and singing. Across years 7 and 8, students have the opportunity to play and perform in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using their voices as well as by playing instruments such as the keyboard, ukulele and a mixture of tuned and untuned percussion. This is achieved and delivered through a range of mediums such as traditional stave notation, use of lead sheets, chord diagrams and tablature. Students have opportunities to compose and improvise their own music using instruments and also electronically; using music technology sequencing software, which is introduced during Year 8. In Year 9, students focus primarily on Music Technology building upon the basis of physical music making which has been developed through Years 7 and 8.

Throughout Key Stage 3, students also have the opportunity to listen with increasing discrimination to music from a range of styles, genres and traditions, consolidating their practical tasks. These styles, genres and traditions have been carefully selected and introduced in a logical and sequenced progression to enhance the gradual build-up of knowledge and skills whilst remaining ambitious and challenging and have been influenced by the [Model Music Curriculum](#).

These activities have been planned to develop a deepening of understanding of the music that students perform and listen to, as well as its history and context within society.

At Key Stage 4, Music is also offered as an option in Year 10 and students currently follow the Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice. A number of students are also given the opportunity to study Eduqas GCSE Music.

Music classes are taught in mixed-ability groupings to allow students with a range of academic experiences to listen to and create music together. Our music curriculum is accessible for students with a range of SEND needs, however, where necessary, appropriate alterations and adaptive teaching methods are put in place to ensure all students are able to participate in practical music education.

More information on the specific topics, genres and styles studied across the key stages can be viewed by accessing the curriculum overview and curriculum summary documents for Music at Penrice Academy [by following this link](#).

Co-curricular music

At Penrice Academy we have fostered a thriving co-curricular music experience which complements our timetabled offer. There are a number of opportunities for students to engage with music outside of timetabled lesson time, including music lessons, curriculum drop-down days, a range of choirs, ensembles and bands, use of practice rooms for individual practise as well as peripatetic music lesson provision.

Starting in the Academic Year 2024/25, Penrice Academy began providing the opportunity for all Year 7 students to follow a six-week course of peripatetic music lessons in singing or on an instrument of their choice. These lessons were provided free of charge to students and funded primarily by the school. Additional funds were also claimed from ASONE Hub, through Arts Council access funding. These lessons were delivered by trained music teachers hired directly by Penrice Academy and students were provided with instruments to complete the lessons on. After the six-week course, parents/carers were provided with information on how to sign-up and pay for a continuation of these lessons. Financial support was provided for students from deprived backgrounds to alleviate potential barriers in accessing music lessons. In total, 243 students accessed their entitlement to music lessons, with 56 students opting to continue with the lessons once their 6-week trial had ceased. The delivery of these sessions

provides every student in Year 7 with an additional 2 hours of taught music provision over the academic year.

This provision is expected to continue in subsequent years with an aim that every student in Year 7 has the opportunity to experience instrumental music lessons alongside their timetabled music experience.

Although we offer the Year 7 6-week trial, all students at Penrice are also able to learn an instrument through peripatetic music lessons. The majority of the peripatetic music lessons at Penrice Academy are provided by Cornwall Music Service Trust (CMST). These lessons take place in a range of settings from solo lessons, pairs and group lessons and happen during the school day. Currently there are students having lessons on the following instruments: Piano, Violin, Flute, Drumkit, Voice, Guitar, Ukulele and Bass Guitar. These lessons are paid termly by parents/carers directly to CMST, however, there are a number of remissions available such as subsidies for students in receipt of Free School Meals or in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, children of Armed Forces personnel or students with an EHCP.

More information on music lessons provided by CMST [can be found here](#).

Aside from the peripatetic music lessons provided by CMST, additional music lessons are provided to Pupil Premium students free of charge. These lessons are provided by instrumental teachers employed directly by Penrice Academy and the instruments currently learnt through this provision are trumpet, piano, tuba, guitar, keyboard, drumkit and voice.

Another opportunity for co-curricular music enrichment include the Music Immersion Days. In the 2024/25 academic year, a Music Immersion Day took place in the summer term for Year 7 students and was an opportunity for students to partake in music making workshops throughout the entire day. This provided an additional five hours of active music tuition for the year group. The drop-down day preceded the scheduled progress evenings for the year group, where parents and carers were able to witness a showcase of the day's experiences. Some photos of the day can be seen on the [school newsletter](#) from the Summer Term. It is planned that the number of drop-down days will increase to one each for Years 7 and 8 in the academic year 2025/26 and to all three year groups in the 2026/27 academic year.

During the 2024/25 academic year, Year 7 assemblies included carefully selected musical clips that corresponded to the music being taught in timetabled music curriculum lessons. Whilst entering the assembly hall, students were presented with a video of a live performance of music that matched the styles and knowledge being delivered in their timetabled lessons. As the Head of Year was a specialist music teacher, these musical examples were presented with accurate and carefully planned narration. This provided discussion opportunities within the timetabled music lessons in the subsequent two-week period and was intended to increase the prevalence of music within the academy.

Penrice Academy currently has two active choirs for students to develop their love for and ability in singing. The Penrice Singers is a choir open to all students, regardless of prior experience and confidence, and currently rehearses at break times in the Music Suite. The Penrice Senior Choir is a competitive choir where entry is by invitation or audition. This choir currently rehearses after-school on a Monday and in the 2024/25 academic year took part in various festivals and competitions including finishing in 2nd at Wadebridge Music Festival and 1st at St Austell Music Festival. Both choirs operate actively within the community, including singing Christmas carols at local care homes in the festive period and performing alongside choirs from other schools in community events. These events included the [CELT Musical Bonanza](#) in November 2023, which saw Penrice Academy host choirs from seven primary schools within the Cornwall Education Learning Trust, performing together in a collaborative concert.

The academy also has a number of instrumental ensembles for students to develop their ensemble playing. The Penrice Orchestra rehearses at lunch times and is open to all orchestral instrumentalists of any ability. The Penrice Orchestra rehearses on a Thursday after-school and is open to all brass players and percussionists of any ability. The Penrice Rock Bands rehearses on a Friday after-school and is open to guitarists, singers, bassists, keyboardists and drummers. Initially set up as one band, due to popularity this has developed into two separate bands – a Senior Rock Band for Years 9+ and a Junior Rock Band for Years 7 - 8. There are also a number of student-led bands which practise at break times and after school in the music practice rooms. In the 2023/24 academic year, a number of these ensembles were given the opportunity to perform at the CELT Secondary School Concert in St Petroc's Church, Bodmin, alongside musical groups from Newquay Tretherras School and Bodmin College. In the 2024/25 academic year, these bands were able to perform at the SongFest event held by ASONE Music Hub.

Aside from bona fide ensembles, there are also a number of other extra-curricular clubs that take place during lunch and break times. These include Music Technology Club, where students can develop their abilities on DAW software; Expression Sessions allowing students an opportunity for unstructured rehearsal, focussing on personal goals and Karaoke Club; where students can develop their confidence in singing in front of their peers. More information on the specific clubs offered as part of Penrice Plus provision is available [here](#).

Penrice Academy has a good working relationship with ASONE Hub and representatives from the school regularly attend hub organised events. ASONE Hub is the Music Education Hub serving Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and receives funding from the Arts Council to support schools to deliver high-quality music education. As part of this provision, ASONE offers CPD to school music staff. Penrice Academy staff attend the annual ASONE Music Conference as an opportunity to discuss learning strategies with other music practitioners across Cornwall as well as hearing from invited guest speakers who have included expert practitioners and leaders in music education from across the

country. Alongside their role in providing CPD for teaching staff, ASONE also organises regular events for students to engage in live musical opportunities. Examples of provision that Penrice Academy students have attended in the past few years include Songfest 2023, 2024 and 2025 at St Petroc's Church, Bodmin, the Big Sing at the Hall for Cornwall and the GCSE Music Concert at Truro Methodist Church (2023) and Richard Lander School (2024). More information on provision and services provided by ASONE can be found [on the ASONE website](#).

Musical experiences

During their education at Penrice Academy, students are able to participate in a range of experiences that allow them to develop their experiential, tacit knowledge of music. The music department organises an annual Winter Concert, providing an opportunity for students to perform in front of an audience of fellow students, parents, carers and other guests. The Winter Concert takes place in the school hall and is typically an eclectic mixture of soloists and ensembles with a range of musical repertoire from traditional festive classics to more modern rock and contemporary numbers. The performances for the Winter Concert are typically rehearsed in the preceding term and students are invited to take part by their teachers. Last year's Winter Concert was offered at a fee of £2 to audience members and some photos of the event can be accessed [at this link](#). A summary of the 2023 concert can be accessed by [following this link](#). This year's Winter Concert is scheduled for Thursday, 11th December 2025.

Aside from the Winter Concert, Penrice Academy also stages an annual school production in the form of a musical which is open to students in all year groups. Students are invited to audition at the start of the Autumn term with performances typically taking place in the Spring term. The academy typically stages Junior editions of Broadway and West End Shows and the most recent performances have included [Rock of Ages](#) (2025), [Oliver! Jr.](#) (2024), [Matilda Jr.](#) (2023) and [Mary Poppins Jr.](#) (2022). Tickets are usually charged at £5 for adults with a reduced rate for children and concessions. Tickets generally sell out prior to the performance week. This coming year's performance will be *Into the Woods*, with auditions for secondary characters scheduled to take place at the start of September. Auditions for lead roles took place in the two weeks prior to the Summer Break.

Last year, the school hosted a Summer Concert for the first time in recent years on location at Carlyon Bay. This event, entitled *Penrice Rocks at Carlyon Bay*, took place in July 2025 and was an opportunity for the school to engage with the local community. The concert was hosted at Shoreside Beach Bar and was free to attend. Some photos of the event can be accessed at [this link](#). The intention is for this event to be held annually, to strengthen Penrice Academy's links and allow further opportunities for students to perform in the community.

In addition to the three performances listed above, school ensembles often attend events hosted by other organisations such as St Austell Music Festival, Wadebridge Music Festival and events hosted by ASONE Hub. In recent years, there have also been a number of CELT collaborative events, as detailed above. Students are often selected to represent the academy in these events by attending extra-curricular activities and rehearsals. All rehearsals for school ensembles are free of charge and the school subsidises the cost of entry fees and transport when attending these events.

At the end of each term, every year group experiences a celebration assembly in the school hall where a selection of awards, prizes and honours are distributed to deserving students. Amongst the awards presented to students, students who have represented the academy by performing in a school ensemble are awarded ensemble pins. In the summer celebration assemblies in the 2024/25 academic year, pins were awarded to students who had performed in the Senior Choir, Rock Band and Orchestra. Each celebration assembly also includes musical performances by talented musicians within each year group, allowing an opportunity for students to act as both performers and audience members.

In the future

Although Penrice Academy is extremely proud of the musical experiences that children currently have, as a school we are striving to strengthen our musical offer even further. Over the next couple of years, we have planned a number of steps to extend the provision we provide for students to make music a more prevalent part of our school environment.

Following on from the success in the Academic Year 2024/25, Penrice Academy will be continuing to provide the opportunity for all Year 7 students to follow a six-week course of peripatetic music lessons in singing or on an instrument of their choice. Based on the success of Penrice Academy's pilot, this has also extended to another school within our Multi-Academy Trust.

As mentioned above, another planned addition to the school calendar in the 2025/26 academic year is the development of the Music Immersion Days for Year 8 students. This will build on the success of the day from the past academic year.

Planned for delivery during the 2025/26 academic year, Year 7 assemblies will include aspects of singing during the assemblies. This will build on the singing that has taken place within curriculum Year 7 music lessons and will be spaced out during the half-terms.

As mentioned earlier in the document, in the academic year 2024/25, the music used in Year 7 Assemblies matched the repertoire played in Year 7 timetabled music lessons. It

is intended that this carefully planned delivery of musical repertoire will extend to Year 8 in the academic year 2025/26 and Year 9 in 2026/27.

Whilst the music department already has a strong working relationship with ASONE Hub and CMST, the academy will strive to continue strengthening these links, with the intention of continuing to attend and support Hub sponsored events.

Further information

Although embedded within the Music Development Plan above, links to referenced organisations and strategies are listed below:

[Model Music Curriculum](#)

[National Plan for Music Education](#)

[ASONE Hub](#)

[Cornwall Music Service Trust](#)