Music development plan summary:
Penrice Academy:
Penrice Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Peter Brodey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Claire Gurd
Name of local music hub	Hall for Cornwall
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	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.

Part A: 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 appraising. 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 in Year 7 and built upon 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.

Part B: 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 provided every student in Year 7 with an additional 2 hours of taught music provision over the academic year.

This provision was continued into the 2025/26 academic year where a further 249 students accessed their entitlement to free music lessons. From these students a total of 43 students continued with their lessons once their 6-week trial had ceased. This number includes a number of students on *endangered* instruments such as the trombone, tenor horn and clarinet, as well as students on drumkit, piano, guitar, flute and voice.

This provision will again continue into the 2026/27 academic year, however, this project will now be solely funded by the School without any financial contribution from Arts Council access funding. This will ensure that every student in Year 7 has the opportunity to experience instrumental music lessons alongside their

Although the academy offers the free 6-week trial to year 7 students, all students at Penrice are also able to learn an instrument through peripatetic music lessons. The majority of these 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. These lessons are paid termly by families 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.

There are also some instrumental lessons provided by teachers employed directly by the school. These lessons are paid termly by families through the school's ParentPay platform. Additional music lessons are also provided to Pupil Premium students and these lessons are subsidised to families. Some of this financial support is claimed back from the Hall for Cornwall using Arts Council access funding.

Across all peripatetic provision at Penrice Academy, as of September 2026, there are currently students learning the trumpet, cornet, trombone, euphonium, tenor horn, tuba, piano, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, voice, drumkit, flute, clarinet and violin.

Another opportunity for co-curricular music enrichment include the Music Immersion Days. In the 2024/25 academic year, a Music Immersion Day took take 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 be able to witness

a showcase of the day's experiences. Some photos of the day were published in the school newsletter from the Summer Term. It had been planned for the number of drop-down days to 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. However, the Music Immersion days were postponed from the 2025/26 academic year and it is hoped that these days are reintroduced 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. Although this did not continue into the 2025/26 academic year, it is hoped that this will be reintroduced in the 2026/27 academic year.

Over the past few years, Penrice Academy has had two active choirs for students to develop their love for and ability in singing. The Penrice Singers was a choir open to all students, regardless of prior experience and confidence. The Penrice Senior Choir was a competitive choir where entry was based on invitation or audition. Through the 2024/25 and 2025/26 academic years, the choir took part in various festivals and competitions including finishing in 2nd at Wadebridge Music Festival (2025) and 1st at St Austell Music Festival (2024 and 2025). From January 2027, the two choir will merge into one inclusive choir for all students. This decision has been made due to staffing restrictions, but will strengthen the overall sound and inclusion of the choir. Moving into the 2026/27 academic year, it is expected that the choir will continue the legacy of operating actively within the local community, including singing Christmas carols at local care homes in the festive period and performing alongside choirs from other schools in community events.

An example of such an event 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 had a good working relationship with the local Music Education Hub, run by ASONE, and representatives from the school regularly attend hub organised events. It is expected that this positive relationship will continue with the Hall for Cornwall, who will take over the running of this club in September 2026.

As part of the provision that was provided by ASONE, Penrice Academy staff have attended the annual ASONE Music Conference for the past four years, making the most of the 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, the Hub has also organised 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), Richard Lander School (2024) and Newquay Tretherras (2025). It is expected that attendance will continue at events hosted by the Hall for Cornwall.

More information on provision and services provided by the Hall for Cornwall can be found on the Hall for Cornwall website.

Part C: 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 a number of an annual concerts, 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. This year's Winter Concert is scheduled for Thursday, 10th December 2026.

For the past two years, the school has hosted a Summer Concert on location at Carlyon Bay. This event, entitled Penrice Rocks at Carlyon Bay, takes place in July and is an opportunity for the school to engage with the local community. The concert has been hosted at Shoreside Beach Bar and is free to attend. Some photos of the 2025 and 2026 events were posted on the school's social media pages. The intention is to continue this event and cement it as an annual tradition to strengthen Penrice Academy's links and allow further opportunities for students to perform in the community.

Aside from the formal music concerts, 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 for lead parts at the end of the Summer term with performances typically taking place in the following Spring term. The fresh intake of Year 7s are welcome to join the production in September as members of the ensemble. Although the academy has typically staged Junior or Teen editions of Broadway and

West End Shows, the most recent performances have been full-length amateur versions. The most recent performances have included Into the Wood (2026, Rock of Ages – Teen Edition (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 Little Shop of Horrors, with auditions for secondary and ensemble 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.

In addition to the 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 the Hub Lead Provider. 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.

In recent years, there have also been a number of CELT collaborative events, such as the CELT Bonanza detailed above and the CELT collaborative orchestra. The CELT Orchestra was established in the 2025/26 academic year to bring together talented musicians from across the five CELT Secondary schools; Penrice Academy, Newquay Tretherras, Poltair School, Brannel School and Bodmin College. The orchestra, which was conducted by Patrick Bailey, rehearsed six times across the academic year and

culminated in a concert hosted at Newquay Tretherras in July 2026. The combined orchestra comprised of roughly 65 students from across the five schools, with over 30 of these students coming from Penrice Academy. A press release celebrating the end of the orchestra's first year was posted on the Newquay Tretherras website. The CELT Orchestra will continue into the 2026/27 academic year and a tour to Lake Garda in Italy has been planned.

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 and 2025/26 academic years, 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 2024/25 and 2025/26 academic years, 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, although they were postponed from the 2025/26 academic year, it is planned to add the development of the Music Immersion Days for Year 8 students into the school calendar. This will build on the success of the day from the 2024/25 academic year.

It is hoped that we will reintroduce aspects of singing during the Year 7 assemblies in the coming years as 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 other year groups over the coming years.

Whilst the music department has had a strong working relationship with ASONE Hub and CMST, the academy will strive to continue strengthening the links with CMST and forging new links with the Hall for Cornwall, 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:

Hall for Cornwall Music Hub

Model National Curriculum for Music

The National Plan for Music Education

Cornwall Music Service Trust