

Shireland CBSO Academy Music Development Plan

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| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025 – 2026 |
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| Date this summary will be reviewed | July 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Mr D Harris |
| Name of local music hub | Black Country Music Hub (SIPS) |
| Name of other music education organisation | CBSO |

Curriculum music

At Shireland CBSO Academy, we recognise Music as one of the highest-leverage and universally present sources of artistic and cultural capital in modern society. We will expose pupils to the best of past and present musical practice from around the world, both within and beyond the realms of their personal experience. In doing so, we seek to cultivate the next generation of musicians and music-lovers – pupils who appreciate and enjoy the phenomenon of listening to and participating in music. Our curriculum is designed to offer rigorous and cyclical exposure to powerful knowledge and disciplinary skill which will enable pupils to develop musical understanding sufficient to create, recreate, and discuss performances and compositions with confidence and awareness. Using a combination of curriculum music, peripatetic lessons, and membership of a diverse range of ensembles and bands we aim to develop musical understanding to the point where further and higher musical education is accessible for all pupils.

Read more about our curriculum intent for Music [here](#).

All pupils receive the following:

- Membership of a large ensemble rehearsing within the school day
- Optional membership of other ensembles or composition/music technology groups which meet after school hours
- Regular opportunities to engage with professional musicians from the CBSO, its partner organisations, and solo artists through performances, workshops, and tutoring sessions (for example, in 2023/24, pupils had the opportunity to meet and work with Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, James Ehnes, and Colin Currie amongst others, and in 2024/25, pupils met with Jennifer France and Fenella Humphreys amongst others)

- At least three regular performance opportunities annually (Christmas, Summer, and a show) with additional performance opportunities scheduled as opportunities arise

At **KS3**, pupils will also receive the following:

- At least 1 hour of classroom music each week with a subject specialist
- Access to a bespoke curriculum incorporating practical musicianship, the creative use of music technology, and aural training based on the National Curriculum for Music, aspects of the DfE Model Music Curriculum, and current and historic models of best practice
- Music woven into the integrated curriculum model used by all secondary schools within the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust, with additional content for this model created especially for pupils at our school
- 20-minute instrument lesson on an instrument (or vocal) discipline in a group of no more than 4

At **KS4**, pupils will also receive the following:

- 3 hours of classroom music each week, studying for either a GCSE or equivalent vocational qualification in Music or equivalent qualification in Music Technology (with an option to study both Music and Music Technology)
- 20-minute instrument lesson on an instrument (or vocal) discipline in a group of no more than 4

At **KS5**, pupils will also receive the following:

- If studying Music academically, 5 hours of classroom music each week, studying either an A-Level in Music or equivalent qualification in Music Technology (10 hours if studying both)
- 20-minute instrument lesson on an instrument (or vocal) discipline

Up to 10% of each year's cohort can be admitted to the school on the grounds of **Musical Aptitude**. In addition to opportunities offered to all pupils, and provision appropriate to their Key Stage, these pupils receive additional ensemble and performance opportunities throughout the year with a focus on accelerating their progress and musical development.

Instrument and vocal lessons and ensembles

As part of our core curriculum offer, all pupils study an instrument or singing with a peripatetic teacher whilst at Shireland CBSO Academy, and these lessons

happen on rotation throughout the school week. All pupils participate in at least one large ensemble (choir or a variety of instrumental groups) during curriculum time, with the option of participating in further music-making during after-school clubs. Practice rooms are available at set times for pupils to use in the school day, and all pupils have an instrument that they can practice with at home that is loaned to them by our local music hub, SIPS.

The school offers a wide and growing range of ensembles including a symphony orchestra, jazz band, choir, guitar ensemble, percussion ensemble, production and composition club, amongst others. Our partner organisation, the CBSO, works closely with us and SIPS in providing these opportunities.

As they form part of our core curriculum entitlement to all pupils, these opportunities are available at no additional cost to any family.

Musical experiences

Our partnership agreement with the CBSO states that in each school year, they will provide, amongst other opportunities, the following:

- At least five performances to pupils each year (although this is not necessarily to all pupils at once, we will ensure that all pupils will be able to attend at least two of these. At least one of these performances will feature the full orchestra, and collectively all these concerts present a diverse range of contemporary, Classical, and popular music performed live by a variety of ensembles.
- At least five creative workshops for groups of pupils throughout the year.
- A programme of visiting guest soloists and CBSO players to deliver sessions designed to inspire and develop pupils' instrumental or vocal skill

Two full school ensemble concerts will take place each year in which each pupil who is a member of an ensemble is expected to perform – one at Christmas, and one in the Summer – and at least one additional recital evening will be offered for solo and small group performances, giving young soloists the opportunity to develop performance practice and stagecraft in a supportive and nurturing environment. We will also stage a musical theatre performance once a year.

As they form part of our core curriculum offer, these opportunities are available at no additional cost to any family.

In the future

As our school grows, we will aim to expand our instrument offer to include a diversity of non-Western instruments and disciplines. We will also aim to expand our ensemble offering to reflect this. As our pupils increase in number and skill, we aspire to increase the number of practice opportunities throughout (and before and after) the school day to reflect the need for sustained and deep practice. We will also look to increase the number of concerts and recitals we host, giving more and more opportunities to our pupils to perform to their peers and to the public.

We aim to develop out Musical Aptitude programme, making it as challenging, exciting, and rewarding for young musicians with noteworthy flair or passion for their subject. Working with our partner organisations and other providers, we will develop enhanced provision for these pupils that prepares them for musical study at the highest level.

As our pupils' musicianship develops and improves, we will aspire to signpost them towards regional and national youth music ensembles run by the CBSO or other providers and will support with costs incurred from the membership of such ensembles by families who may need it. We will also draw on and strengthen ties with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire to provide workshops, educational visits, and experiences of what high-level musical study at a top conservatoire is like for pupils; and support pupils wishing to engage with the Junior Conservatoire programme (especially those considering conservatoire education for their futures).

Our partnership with the CBSO encompasses not only its performing musicians, but also the variety of support, administrative, and management roles necessary within such a large organisation. As this partnership grows, we expect to draw on this expertise to furnish a vibrant careers programme grounded in practical opportunities to experience the 'world of work' in the arts sector, championing not just professional musicianship but the myriad of other ways in which someone can successfully build a career in a professional arts organisation.

Further information

Shireland CBSO Academy is part of the [Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust](#), which recognises the intrinsic value of music education and the enormous creative, personal, and academic benefits that engagement with music can develop. In particular, we acknowledge that all pupils regardless of background are entitled to a rigorous and rich Music education that inspires the next generation of musicians and music-lovers and exposes all to a wealth of cultural capital. We are committed to developing our provision across all primary and secondary phases in line with the latest curriculum guidance and with the support of specialist practitioners both within and without the trust.

SIPS Education, now part of the Black Country Music Hub, work with us to provide our instrumental tuition and some ensemble rehearsals, and commit to strengthening their own provision, specifying three areas of focus:

- High-quality delivery of services including lessons, ensemble rehearsals, and performance opportunities
- Strategic networking and professional development
- Enhanced opportunities for pupils to perform in high-quality venues and engage with the arts in new settings

Since June 2024, Shireland CBSO Academy has been the venue for SIPS's evening and weekend provision, enabling young musicians from all of Sandwell to access high-quality large-scale music-making in our specialist facilities.

Find out more about our partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra [here](#).