De Lisle Catholic School Music Development Plan Summary Overview

The document below outlines the Music development plan for De Lisle Catholic School Leicester for the academic year 2026-2027. This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across curricular and extracurricular music. This information is to help students and parents and carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students music education.

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Lucy Robey-Monks
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Pete Connor
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum Music

Our vision for the Music Department is to create a dynamic, inclusive, and inspiring music curriculum that fosters creativity, expression, and cultural appreciation among all students. We aim to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to engage deeply with music, both as listeners and as active participants. Through a curriculum that emphasises creativity, critical thinking, and cultural literacy, we seek to nurture a lifelong appreciation for music and the arts.

Aims and Objectives:

1. **Develop Core Musical Skills**
   We aim to ensure that all students gain foundational skills in music theory, performance, and critical listening. Students will engage in learning that spans a diverse range of genres, styles, and traditions, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of music's technical and expressive possibilities. Our curriculum will include practical and theoretical components that build students' confidence and competence in performing, composing, and appreciating music.

2. **Promote Cultural Literacy and Appreciation**
   Music is an essential means of understanding diverse cultures and histories. Our curriculum will provide opportunities for students to explore the global tapestry of music, learning to respect and appreciate the wide variety of musical traditions. This approach will encourage open-mindedness and deepen students' understanding of their own and others' cultural identities.
3. **Encourage Creative and Critical Thinking**
   By providing students with opportunities to create, perform, and analyse music, we aim to foster critical thinking and encourage innovation. Through composition and improvisation, students will develop skills in creativity, problem-solving, and self-expression. We will encourage students to reflect critically on their own work and that of others, cultivating an environment where constructive feedback and personal growth are prioritized.
4. **Foster Emotional and Social Development**
   Music has a unique ability to support emotional and social growth. In ensemble settings, students will learn teamwork, communication, and leadership skills, while solo performances will help them build resilience and confidence. Our curriculum will encourage students to use music as an expressive outlet and a means of understanding and managing their own emotions.
5. **Inspire Lifelong Engagement with Music**
   Ultimately, we aim to instil a love for music that will extend beyond the classroom. By providing diverse, high-quality music experiences—such as collaborations with professional musicians, performance opportunities, and access to extracurricular music clubs—we aim to inspire students to continue exploring and enjoying music throughout their lives.

Implementation Strategy:

To achieve these aims, we will prioritise professional development for our music educators, ensuring they are equipped with the latest pedagogical skills and resources. Our curriculum will be reviewed annually to integrate emerging music technology and to respond to feedback from students, parents, and faculty. Additionally, we will foster connections with local music organisations and artists, offering students real-world exposure to music as a discipline and career path.

Impact Measurement:

The impact of our curriculum will be measured by student engagement, performance assessments, and feedback from students and parents. We will track participation in music-related extracurricular activities, as well as the number of students pursuing music at higher education levels. Qualitative feedback will also be collected through surveys and focus groups to continuously improve and adapt the curriculum to better serve our students.

By embedding these goals into our curriculum, we aim to cultivate an enriching music education program that empowers students with the skills, cultural awareness, and confidence to succeed in a diverse and evolving world.

School Curriculum:

As a school, we deliver high-quality provision in curricular music across Key Stage 3 and 4. Our KS3 curriculum has been revised to ensure inclusion of the key features of the national plan for music education.

KS3

Pupils in year 7 and 8, will receive 2 hours over a fortnightly timetable. We aim to meet the demands of the National Curriculum and teach Performing, Composing and Listening/Appraising through the exploration of Popular Music, Classical Music and World Music Styles.

Example modules covered are:

Year 7 – The Instruments of the Orchestra

Year 8 - Samba Music – ensemble skills

Year 9 – Music technology, turntables and scratching.

KS4

At KS4 we offer one level 2 course in GCSE Music (which is graded 1 to 9) this is an option subject that students on the right pathway can choose to study. Currently students in years 10 follow the GCSE Music course

Our school timetable curriculum includes 6 hours of KS4 music, over a fortnightly timetable; the course comprises of three components and areas of study include;

-Performing as part of an ensemble and as a soloist,

-Composing music from a set brief and from own brief and

-Appraising music, a listening exam that has four areas of study, musical forms and devices, music for ensemble, film music and popular music.

Part B: Extra-curriculum Music Tuition, Choirs and Ensembles

As a school we are proud that we give access to peripatetic lessons across a range of instruments, currently these include piano, guitar, drums, singing, woodwind and strings.
These lessons are one to one with various peripatetic teachers. Contact Mrs H Fisher in the first instance hfisher@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Students have the opportunity, to perform throughout the year:

1) School Choir –every Wednesday from 2:50-3:30 in the Music room. All years are welcome. Performance opportunities include, Christmas Carol Concert, Menphys Catholic Carol Service (a limited number of students selected for this) masses, prize giving, school production, summer Concert and De Lisle's Got Talent.
2) School Ensemble – every Tuesday (grade 4+) and Thursday prep time (grades 1-4) 2:50-–3:30pm in the music room. All years and abilities welcome. Performance opportunities include our Christmas carol service, Prize Giving, School Production and Summer Concert.
3) Steel Pans – every Thursday 3:30-5:00 –Group 1- Beginner Group 2 Advanced.

Our school groups perform internally and externally on a regular, termly basis. Highlights include:

1. **Christmas Carol Service** – December 2026 with performance appearances by the orchestra and singing group (choir) with selected solo performances from students.
2. **Spiritual services:** Welcome and retreat day masses throughout the academic year. Feast Day Mass June 2027 including performances from the Orchestra and singing group (choir) plus selected solos if required.
3. **Prize Giving**, including performances from the orchestra, solo singers and GCSE group as required.
4. **De Lisle's Got Talent** – open to all group and solo performances.
5. **Summer Concert**, a musical evening showcasing the work and progress of all musical groups and the GCSE Music class.

Additionally, trips and extra-curricular experiences are arranged to enhance and extend musical learning in context. These include:

1. A trip to see *Mrs Doubtfire* the musical in Nottingham.
2. A trip to De Montfort Hall to see a live orchestra performance of Wallace and Gromit The Wrong Trousers.
3. A trip to Curve Theatre to explore roles in theatre and a question-and-answer session with industry professionals.

Part C: Musical experiences, events and performances

Music Calendar

Academic Calendar 2026-2027

Performance Opportunity (participating or members of the audience)

Month	Event	Description
December	Schools Carol Concert Menphys Catholic Carol Concert	Community audiences of staff, parents and students. Performances from ensemble groups, a singing group, various soloists, steel pan groups and choir. Paid audience with performances from selected choirs from Catholic schools across the county, plus an orchestra consisting of students from Catholic schools across the county.
February	School Musical	Paid audiences with contributions by actors, singers and dancers from De Lisle.
March	Prize Giving	Invited parents and guests with music provided by ensemble and musical performances from dance and drama students.
May	De Lisle's Got Talent	Paid audiences with contributions from the whole school community including performing arts.
June	Summer Concert	Paid audiences with contributions from GCSE music students, ensemble groups, steel pan groups, choir and peripatetic music students.