Music Development Plan Summary: Carshalton High School for Girls

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Eleanor Gravenor (Head of Music)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sotonye Odugbemi (SLT Music Line Manager)
Name of local music hub	Sutton Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	The Surrey Sound of Music

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

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Every CHSG KS3 student studies music for one hour every week during Year 7 and 8 after which the subject becomes optional. In Year 9 all students study music for 6 weeks as part of the Extended Curriculum carousel of 6 subjects, focussing on Dance music through time.

In KS3 music students study the elements of music through a wide range of musical styles and genres from across the world including Blues, Samba, Musical Theatre, Chinese music, Gamelan, Western Classical, Rap and Grime, Reggae, Pop and Film music. More information about the topics studied can be found here on the CHSG website. Music KS3 (chsg.org.uk)

The KS3 curriculum is designed to build on students' understanding of music and develop their treble and bass clef staff notation, singing, listening, appraising, keyboard and ukulele skills. Students will also learn to improvise and compose to a brief or to create a specific mood and create group percussion pieces. Through their music lessons students are encouraged develop an appreciation of music and to work in small ensembles to produce fluent musical performances of quality.

At KS4 students take the Eduqas GCSE in Music covering Performance, Composition and the four areas of study (Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular

Music). More information about KS4 study can be found here: Carshalton High School for Girls - Music KS4 (chsg.org.uk).

At KS5 the Eduqas A Level in Music is offered with students able to major in Performance or Composition. Students study Musical Theatre, Into the 20th Century and the Development of the Symphony for the exam in Year 13. Information about KS5 study can be found here: Carshalton High School for Girls - Music A Level KS5 (chsg.org.uk).

CHSG works in partnership with Sutton Music Trust and each year takes advantage of opportunities to hear professional orchestras play GCSE set works. The CHSG music scholars (awarded as part of the school admissions process) follow an additional programme of activities which this year has included planning and staging concerts, completing the Level 1 Music Leaders UK award, developing music theory skills and presenting on what music means to them.

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.

Several co-curricular clubs are offered at CHSG. Music staff have worked hard in recent years to build a culture of music-making and have seen a significant increase in student involvement in ensembles since the 2022-2023 academic year when there was a change in leadership. We will be working to further embed and grow this culture in future. Co-curricular clubs take place on Monday-Wednesday after school and are free to all students to join. Clubs on offer this year include:

- Whole School Choir
- Instrumental Club
- Song writing Club
- Band Club

The school runs a musical every other year in conjunction with the drama and dance departments. In March 2025 the show was Six the Musical. The next school musical will be Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and will take place in July 2027.

Students are also encouraged and supported to build their own ensembles outside of lessons using the four practice rooms in the music department. These are available for students to access at lunch time and after school.

We work with the Surrey Sound of Music to provide peripatetic music lessons and currently have nine teachers coming into school on a weekly basis. This offer has grown in the last few years and we are continuing to actively encourage students to take up instruments and to engage new instrumental teachers as required. Surrey Sound of Music are currently recruiting for a Brass and a Lower strings teacher for us to meet demand from students.

Lessons are currently available in:

- Piano/Keyboard
- Singing (Pop, Classical and Musical Theatre)
- Electric/Acoustic Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Ukulele

- Saxophone
- Violin
- Viola
- Drum kit

The proportion of students receiving peripatetic lessons in school has trebled since 2023, from 2% to 6%. We have introduced a school subsidy of £8 per lesson for Pupil Premium students in KS3 and GCSE PP students now receive fully funded individual lessons. 20 PP students now receive partial or fully funded music lessons. We have also negotiated for Surrey Sound to offer paired lessons to help reduce the cost to the parent.

CHSG owns several instruments which it loans out to students with a keen interest in music but no access to instruments at home. We also work with Sutton Music Trust to help students access instruments for hire and find ensembles to nurture their talents. Several CHSG students participate in Sutton Music Trust ensembles outside of school and are working to achieve graded music qualifications from ABRSM, Trinity and Rock School.

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.

CHSG students perform regularly at the Winter and Summer Concerts, in the biennial school production, and during open evenings and school events. In the 25-26 academic year participation in concerts grew with the Winter and Summer concerts each involving approximately 100 students from across Years 7-13. Tickets were charged at £4 each and the concerts were well attended by parents, carers, school staff and fellow students. These events featured a mixture of performances from school ensembles, and soloists and small ensembles who auditioned for their slots. Over 50 acts auditioned for the small number of performance slots available. Demand for performance opportunities is growing at CHSG and we intend to build on this next year.

Every year the Music Scholars plan and organise a concert for Year 7 pupils in April. This brings live music to the 280 students of Year 7 and boosts student performance and leadership skills.

School music events last year included:

- Piano Salon Concert
- Winter Concert
- Musical Theatre Showcase
- Scholars Concert
- Induction Day concert to new intake
- Summer Concert

Some of these concerts were designed as more intimate performance opportunities (Piano Salon) whilst others took place in the main school hall. The Musical Theatre Showcase was largely student lead, offering new opportunities for musical leadership. The concerts listed above involved over 300 different student performers and each event was attended by between 30- 200 audience members.

The Music department (often in conjunction with Drama) ran the following trips in the 25-26 academic year:

- Year 12 A Level Music Sweeney Todd trip in November – for PP students and fully funded by the school.
- Year 12 trip to see Hamiton in November (in partnership with WHSG).
- Music Scholars trip to a concert at the Royal Albert Hall in March.
- Year 11 and 12 trip to the Barbican in March for a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra.
- Year 8-10 GCSE Music and Drama trip to see Phantom of the Opera in June.

For all of these trips school PP funding was used to subsidise 50% of the cost of tickets for students. For several students these trips were the only trips they had attended during their time at CHSG. For many students these trips offered their first experience of live classical music or live performance in a London venue.

CHSG is aiming to help as many students as possible experience the music they are studying and to this end have started running an annual Samba workshop for Year 7 with company Beat Goes On. This workshop takes place in the Autumn term as students study Samba music. Last year this allowed 90 Year 7s to experience a professional music workshop for minimal cost.

A music department priority is building the culture of singing within school and one way we are doing this is by including a Year 7 massed choir in our Winter and Summer Concerts. 50 Year 7s participated in the Winter Concert 2025.

Our most recent tracking data highlights that through peripatetic lessons, trips, concerts, the production and co-curricular clubs, in the 2025-26 academic year over 400 students have accessed musical experiences at CHSG (in addition to the 280 Year 7s who attended the Scholars' concert). This does not include the students who attended the concerts and production without participating. We are extremely proud of this and intend to reach more students next year.

In the future

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

We aim to continue to offer the increased number of performance opportunities available to students that we implemented last year (Piano Salon and a new Spring concert).

The school musical will take place in July 2027 and we have chosen a show that we hope will attract new students as it is different to our previous show.

We aim to continue to grow the proportion of the school population receiving instrumental or singing lessons. This will be done by contacting parents, talking to students and raising the profile of musicians across the school. Reaching and surpassing the national average of 7% of students would be excellent, although obviously this depends on the local financial climate.

We aim to offer some form of live performance to both year groups in KS3 (7 and 8) whether this be through a trip, a student concert or through visiting musicians.

We aim to continue building the leadership skills of our Music scholars by their undertaking the new Music Leaders Level 2 course as soon as it becomes available. More widely we hope to encourage student ownership of the department by creating several 'music monitors' to help manage the rehearsal rooms and to assist with the running of concerts

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

The website for Sutton Music Trust features useful information about their School Music Education Development Plan School Music Education Plan - Sutton Music Trust and about instrumental hire Instrument Hire - Sutton Music Trust.

More information about The Surrey Sound of Music, our peripatetic lessons provider can be found on their website Welcome to The Surrey Sound of Music - The Surrey Sound of music.