

Music development plan summary: Ullswater Community College Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 26
Date this summary was published	1 September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	17 July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr I Marshallsay
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr P Holliday
Name of local music hub	Cumbria Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

The Music Department at Ullswater Community College is a vibrant and integral part of our educational community, designed to be welcoming, inclusive, and creative. We offer a diverse range of extracurricular opportunities, ensuring every student can find their place and passion in music.

Our engaging and varied curriculum fosters a climate where students enjoy and actively participate in music, appreciating its relevance in today's society. Through performance, composition, and appraisal activities, students gain a comprehensive understanding of how music works, building confidence in their musical abilities while enhancing their creativity and communication skills.

Each student receives **one hour of curriculum music lessons per week** throughout KS3, following the national plan for music. These lessons are practical, allowing students to develop skills on the keyboard, guitar, ukulele and singing. Students also have the opportunity to use music computer software such as band lab to help students compose and sequence, and introduce them to basic music technology.

Theoretical understanding is interwoven throughout all the schemes of learning. Our approach emphasises creativity, practicality, and ensemble performance, aiming to inspire a deep love for music.

At **KS4** we offer the **BTEC Level 2 Tech Award** and at **KS5** we offer both **A level Music** and **BTEC Level 3 Music Extended Certificate**.

Our commitment to inclusivity ensures that all students, including those who are disabled and/or have SEND, can participate fully in our musical opportunities. The curriculum is thoughtfully designed with varied and differentiated resources to support students with diverse physical and educational needs, making music education accessible and enjoyable for all.

Additionally, we offer a **comprehensive and robust peripatetic music program** with one-on-one instrumental lessons, encouraging students to pursue graded music exams.

You can find more information on the schemes of work currently studied for each year group in the [music curriculum](#) area on the school website.

Part B: Extra-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.

Ullswater Community College offers a **comprehensive music programme** that caters to students of all ages and abilities. We have both an extensive extra curricular program and instrumental tuition program to provide a varied and exciting music offer.

We provide both one-to-one and small group **instrumental tuition**, taught by highly qualified teachers and peripatetic teachers.

Our program encompasses a wide range of instruments, including voice, strings, brass, woodwind, piano, guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, and drums. Instrumental lessons are charged on a termly basis, with pupil premium students eligible for free tuition.

In addition to our instrumental lessons, we offer a variety of **extracurricular music** ensembles, such as choir, big band, orchestra, string group, brass & wind group, guitar and ukulele group, woodwind group, rock band practice and street band. These ensembles are open to all students and provide a valuable opportunity for students to develop their musical skills and perform alongside their peers. These ensembles occur at lunchtimes and after school, and are free to join.

There are opportunities for students to study and work towards **music graded exams** on their chosen instrument. These will often be taught and worked on in their one-to-one lessons, but students can also rehearse in one of the music practice rooms at

break times or lunchtimes if they wish to have extra time to make progress. Students can **loan instruments** from the school if they wish to be able to practise at home on weekends.

We also have connections with **Westmorland & Furness Music Service** and the **Cumbria Music Hub**, which offer opportunities such as music workshops at school, or external opportunities such as events where students are able to perform.

Part C: Musical Performances and 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.

At Ullswater Community College, we have **multiple musical performances** throughout the year giving students the opportunity to showcase their talents, and show the progress they are making. Some of these performances are regular events, such as the Christmas concert, Rock band night and Summer concert. All of these concerts include students participating from all year groups (7-13). Parents are encouraged to attend all the performances in a show of support for their child, but also for all the students involved. Students not performing are also welcome at all the concerts to help encourage them to participate and inspire them - They are also able to join in with the celebration of the talents of their peers.

In this coming academic year, we are delivering a whole Year 7 concert at the end of the first half term, showcasing the singing that all of Year 7 have been learning and performing in their music lessons. Our **school musical production** this year is 'School of Rock', and will be performing across 3 nights in February 2026. This is a fantastic event that will bring together students from across the Performing Arts.

Other notable performances include the UCC brass players remembrance day performance of 'The Last Post'. Each year on Remembrance day, the brass players position themselves around the school and perform 'The Last Post' as the school falls silent.

The UCC choir perform at the annual Penrith Schools' Music Association (PSMA) Carol Festival at St Andrews Church in Penrith. This annual Christmas event is a great experience for all the students involved.

There is at least one annual musical theatre trip each year to see a musical and often more. Students from KS3 and KS4 attend on separate dates. The venue and production changes each year.

Historically, there have been music tours/trips to Berlin, Paris and London for our numerous bands to perform at. We are planning a music trip/tour to Paris in the Summer term of 2027 for our ensembles to showcase their talents.

In the future

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

We continuously review the implementation of our KS3 curriculum, ensuring that our music curriculum reflects the recommendations of the model curriculum (2021), and is carefully sequenced to provide a clear pathway to the courses on offer at KS4 and KS5.

We have introduced A level Music in September 2024, alongside the BTEC Level 3 that we currently offer.

We have also introduced BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice at KS4, but we are also planning to reintroduce GCSE Music from September 2027.

We are planning on delivering a school musical production annually in collaboration with the drama and dance departments. Our school musical of 'School of Rock' is performing in February 2026, with plans for our next musical in 2027 already in place.

We are taking our orchestra on a music tour/trip to Paris in the summer term of 2027.

Further information

[Cumbria Music Hub](#)

[Westmorland & Furness Music Service](#)

[The Department for Education](#) - guide for parents and carers on how to get your child involved in music

[Arts Council](#)