

Ormiston Horizon Academy Music Development Plan

Overview

Academic year that this summary covers: 2026–2027

Date this summary was published: September 2026

Date this summary will be reviewed: August 2027

Name of the school music lead: Jordan Facey

Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music: Nicola Whiston

Name of local music hub: City Music Service

Name of other music education organisation(s): None currently

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

At Ormiston Horizon Academy, the music curriculum is rooted in the National Curriculum and informed by both the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) and the OAT Music Common Curriculum (September 2026). The curriculum is designed to provide students with a broad and ambitious musical education that develops practical performance skills, musical understanding, creativity and confidence.

Students at Key Stage 3 receive one music lesson per fortnight, lasting between 50 and 60 minutes depending on the timetable allocation. At Key Stage 4, students studying Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice receive six lessons per fortnight.

Music is taught by a specialist teacher within the Performing Arts Department.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is carefully sequenced to develop students' musical knowledge and practical skills progressively across Years 7 to 9.

Year 7:

Half Term	Curriculum Plan
1	Piano, Notation & Musical Elements Students explore keyboard technique, note reading, pitch, pulse, duration, and the elements of music including dynamics, tempo, texture, timbre, and structure.
2	Piano, Notation & Christmas Keyboard Students continue developing keyboard fluency, ensemble timing, rehearsal skills, and confident performance techniques.
3	Rhythms & Percussion Students explore rhythm notation, note values, rests, metre, and ensemble drumming techniques using percussion instruments.
4	Rhythms & Percussion Students develop group rehearsal skills and compose percussion performances using rhythm, dynamics, and structure.
5	Pop Music & Harmony Students explore pop song structure, scales, triads, chord progressions, and singing with accompaniment.
6	Pop Music & Harmony Showcase Students create and perform original pop songs, developing songwriting, performance, and evaluation skills.

Year 8:

Half Term	Curriculum Plan
1	Ukulele Skills Students explore instrumental techniques required to play chord progressions fluently, how to read tablature and chord charts and the context of the role of ukulele in Hawaiian music.
2	<p>Ukulele Skills Students continue to develop their fluency on ukuleles, developing smooth chord changes.</p> <p>Students will learn develop an understanding of the difference major and minor chords and perform songs using chord extensions.</p>
3	Blues Music Students will learn about 12 bar blues chord progressions and 7 th chord extensions and walking basslines.

4	Blues Music Students will develop their ensemble skills, learn about the blues scale and how to use it to improvise over a 12-bar blues chord progression and walking bassline.
5	The Orchestra Students will learn about the layout of the orchestra, the instrumental families and develop their ear for recognising instruments in the brass and wood wind families. Students will continue to develop their keyboard skills, with a key focus on techniques and coordination of both left and right hands.
6	The Orchestra Students will continue to develop their knowledge of instrumental families, focusing on the percussion and string families. Students will continue to develop their notation and performance skills, developing their coordination of left and right hands.



Year 9:

Half Term	Curriculum Plan
1	In the first half of the Autumn term, students focus on building core skills in a digital audio workstation. They learn how to create tracks, record and edit MIDI, and apply basic mixing tools such as balancing and panning.
2	Students will continue to develop their DAW skills, building confidence in the use of virtual instruments and how to create MIDI performances that sound closer to a live recording.
3	In the first half of the Spring term, students focus on developing their instrumental performance skills. They learn a number of distinct riffs on keyboards and guitars, working on accuracy, fluency, hand coordination, and confident technique. Through regular practice and guided rehearsal, students build their ability to perform short musical patterns.
4	Students continue to develop their performance skills with the opportunity to compose and write their own riffs.
5	In the first half of the summer term, students learn the key motifs from the James Bond theme, focusing on accurate performance and understanding what makes these motifs so distinctive.
6	Students will transfer the motifs into BandLab, applying the digital audio workstation skills they developed earlier in the year, making conscious decisions grounded in their understanding of the musical elements.

At Key Stage 4, students study the Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice. The course develops students' understanding of live performance, composition, music production, rehearsal and professional practice.

Instrumental learning is embedded throughout the curriculum, particularly through keyboard ukulele and hand percussion performance work at Key Stage 3.

SEND and Inclusion:

Ormiston Horizon Academy is committed to ensuring that all students, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), can fully access and participate in music education and the wider cultural life of the academy. Lessons are adapted to meet the needs of individual learners through a range of inclusive teaching strategies, including scaffolded tasks, differentiated resources, practical modelling, chunked instructions and targeted adult support. At Key Stage 3, smaller Horizon teaching groups provide additional support for students with SEND and those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), with Learning Support Practitioners timetabled into lessons to support. Students are encouraged to develop independence, confidence and self-expression through practical music-making activities, ensemble work and performance opportunities. Specialist equipment and adapted resources are available where required to ensure students can fully engage with learning. The academy actively encourages students with SEND to participate in extracurricular activities, school productions, trips and wider enrichment opportunities as part of its inclusive approach to music education and wider academy life.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Ormiston Horizon Academy offers a range of opportunities for students to engage in music beyond lesson time.

School Production:

The annual school production is open to students from all year groups and provides opportunities for students to develop singing, acting, dance and stagecraft skills.

Peripatetic Music Lessons:

Parents receive a termly letter providing all the details required to sign their child up to peripatetic lessons that will suit them best.

Charging and Remissions Information:

Peripatetic lessons are delivered by The City Music Service to guarantee high quality and reliable lessons. The City Music Service charges the school termly, and parents pay through the school payment system. Lessons are charged at a standard fee of £43 per hour, however, costs vary based on the duration of the lesson and if the lesson is delivered to a group or on an individual basis. Students can choose to take either a 20, 30 or 60 minute lesson.

Current available instruments include:

- Guitar
- Drums
- Keyboard and piano
- Strings

The academy plans to expand the peripatetic offer in future years to include singing and brass tuition.

Extra-curricular rehearsals and instrumental lessons take place within specialist Performing Arts and Music spaces across the academy.

Part C: Musical experiences

Students at Ormiston Horizon Academy engage with music through performances, productions and enrichment opportunities throughout the academic year.

Students regularly perform as part of the annual school production and contribute to performances linked to school events including:

- Open evenings
- Christmas performances
- Celebration events
- Ormiston Academy Trust's talent show

During their time studying at Ormiston Horizon students have multiple opportunities to perform a licensed production of a full musical. Students can perform as part of the ensemble, or audition to play a principal role. Students continually develop their acting, singing and dance skills while being a part of this production. Students rehearse throughout the year and perform for 2 nights to a paying audience, with the professional equipment and setting of a local theatre. This allows students to showcase their talents and share the pieces they have rehearsed. It is also an opportunity for students to gain confidence performing to an audience of their families, friends, teachers, and the local community.

Trips to Musicals and Performances

The academy aims to provide opportunities for students to experience live music and theatre performances where possible. These opportunities are designed to broaden students' musical understanding and inspire participation in the arts.

Support may be available for students who require financial assistance to access enrichment opportunities.

In the future

Over the coming years, Ormiston Horizon Academy aims to further develop and strengthen its music provision.

Key priorities include:

- Increasing uptake at Key Stage 4 for BTEC Music Practice
- Developing singing opportunities across the academy
- Expanding instrumental tuition opportunities
- Increasing performance opportunities for students
- Broadening the extra-curricular music offer
- Improving access and inclusion for SEND students
- Continuing staff professional development within music education

The academy also aims to continue developing partnerships with external music providers and create further opportunities for students to engage with music both within school and the wider community.

Further information

Further information about the music curriculum and wider school provision can be found on the Ormiston Horizon Academy website.

Information regarding SEND provision, curriculum information and Performing Arts opportunities will also be available through the school website.