

Music development plan summary: Ormiston Rivers Academy November 2025

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2025-26.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band, or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	25-26
Date this summary was published	Nov 25
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 26
Name of the school music lead	Laura Turnnidge
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kate Goodfellow
Name of local music hub	Essex 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, 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.

Ormiston Rivers provides a broad and varied Music Curriculum for Key stages 3,4 and 5. We have our own dedicated music website: www.RiversMusic.co.uk which houses our resources.

Music hours per fortnight		
KS3	KS4	KS5
2	5	10

Music Exam boards		
KS4	KS4	KS5
Music Performance Trinity Rock and Pop Grade 6	NCFE L1/2 Music Technology	RSL LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA IN FOR MUSIC PRACTITIONERS

Year 7	Piano Performance 1	Singing: Musicals	Ensemble 1	Composition 1	Music Tech 1: DAW	Rhythm 1: African Drumming
	Introduction to Pitch (Treble & Bass clef) and the Keyboard. Students develop ambidexterity with right and left hand performing Somewhere over the Rainbow.	Singing skills and knowledge of musical theatre. Pupils will sing songs from musicals and compose their own song for a musical.	Perform as an ensemble using contemporary instruments including electric guitar, bass, drum kit, Trumpet, keyboard, and ukulele.	Develop composition skills from different stimuli utilising chords, melody, tonality and chromatism.	An introduction to Digital Audio Workstations (DAW) Explore Rhythm, Pitch, chords and basslines in Ableton and then compose a song using Sound trap (DAW).	Explore rhythmic techniques such as polyrhythm, ostinato, Rondo form using traditional djembes. Pupils will compose their own African drumming piece.
Year 8	Piano Performance 2	World Music: Caribbean	Ensemble 2	Composition 2	Music Tech 2: DAW	Rhythm 2: Samba Drumming
	Develop understanding of pitch (Treble & Bass clef) and the Keyboard. Pupils will perform Harry Potter and The Halloween theme.	Experience traditional music from around the globe. Reggae off beats, and Calypso triplets while getting use steel pans. Students will also perform Three Little Bird's as an ensemble.	Perform as an ensemble using contemporary instruments including guitar, bass, drum kit, Trumpet, keyboard and ukulele.	Develop composition skills from different stimuli utilising chords, melody, tension and singing. Students will compose a pop song for their assessment.	Digital Audio Workstations. Compose a soundscape for Witches scene in Macbeth exploring: Import, FX, Balance, Automation, Panning, Slicing, Loops.	Explore rhythmic techniques using traditional Brazilian drums. Pupils will perform Samba De Ja Ne and compose their own Samba piece.
Year 9	Piano Performance 3	Music Tech: Podcast	Ensemble	Composition: Blues	Music Tech: Performance	Rhythm: Gamelan Drumming
	Develop understanding of pitch (Treble & Bass clef) and the Keyboard. Pupils will perform Fur Elise and In The Hall of The Mountain King.	Students create a Podcast sing loops, samples, SFX whilst developing DAW skills such as cut, duplicate, arrange and mixing	Perform as an ensemble using contemporary instruments including guitar, bass, drum kit, Trumpet, keyboard and ukulele.	Develop composition skills focusing on the elements of Blues music: 12 bar blues, Blues Scale, 7th chords, added 6th chords and vocal writing.	Music technology mix of Shape of you. Midi editor, Drum loop, mixing	Explore rhythmic techniques using traditional Indonesian drums. Pupils will perform and compose complex rhythms with a focus on duration and tempo.

The Music Department follows the SEND policy for the whole school which can be found [here](#). However, we assess the individual needs of students within our department and adjust these access supports as necessary to allow all students equitable access to our Music Curriculum.

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.

We offer peripatetic lessons in the following instruments: piano, voice, drums, bass/electric and acoustic guitar. These are one to one for ½ hour every 2 weeks.

Students can use the practice rooms every break/lunchtime to rehearse as individuals or as an ensemble. Students regularly play in rock bands or practice their KS4 exam pieces or other songs during this time. Students can hire instruments through Essex Music Services, but also have access to our drum kits, guitars, pianos and microphones during break and lunch time.

Students make progress through opportunities to perform in the local community, such as carnival, school shows, performances to the Rotary club and are taking part in a local festival competition this year for young musician of the year.

As a school we put on a whole school musical yearly, which gives students the opportunity to perform and develop skills in the other Performing Arts disciplines also. Students who have an interest in music technology also help at all of our events, developing skills in setting up sound.

Students pay for peripatetic lessons but are subsidised if they are Pupil Premium.

All clubs run in school are free and open to all year groups.

We work with local businesses, charities and our feeder primary schools to support co-curricular music. This included workshops run by our staff along with performances at events in the local community.

As a department, we organise performances for our end of term celebration assemblies in which staff and students perform.

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.

September yearly – Carnival. Our students performed at our local carnival. This carnival raises money for charity. This year we organised a carnival float and will be doing so next year.

December yearly – Whole School musical. Students auditioned in Summer Term and a regular rehearsal schedule is set out. Some rehearsals took part in October half term. Tickets are open to the public and local community and priced at £7.50 per adult and

£5 per student. Staff are allowed 1 free ticket. Students in all year groups are participating.

Trips – Music Technology students visit and complete a workshop at Abbey Road Studios. All students had the opportunity to see the Musical Six at The Cliff's Pavilion. PP students are always offered these tickets for free. A Key Stage 3 trip has also been organised to see the musical Matilda at The Cambridge Theatre in the summer term.

December 2025 – Students are performing at Knightswood Day Care Centre before Christmas, singing carols and performing as a solo or as an ensemble to support the community of people living with advanced dementia.

January 2026 – Students are entering the Young Musician of the Year competition. External judges come in and mark students based on a performance criteria, deciding who goes through to the local heats competing against other schools. There will then be a final in February at The Brentwood Cathedral.

January 2026 – Students have the opportunity to enter Ormiston's Got Talent, which is a competition across all the OAT academies. If students get through, they compete in a semi-final, with the final in July at The Birmingham Rep Theatre.

April 2026 – music festival in Southminster for all schools in the Dengie. This is a competition for musician of the year and has a monetary prize.

June 2026 – Students are given the opportunity to perform in a concert at St Mary's C of E Church as part of the Burnham Art Trail to the local community.

In the future

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

We are continuing to develop the courses offered at KS4 and are in discussions with the trust on a shared curriculum. Currently Trinity Grade 6 encourages students to play a range of instruments to a grade 6 standard. We will continue offering opportunities for students to perform to an audience, through Carnival Float, community events, music competitions and link with local primary schools. I am asking the two local primary schools to collaborate with us for the Burnham Art Trail concert in the summer.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.