Music development plan summary: Ormiston Denes Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Charlotte Howard
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

Music Curriculum Statement

At Ormiston Denes Academy, we aim to inspire and engage students to build a passion and confidence for the universal language of Music, developing creativity and a sense of achievement, through a varied and aspiring curriculum and offering opportunities to access and discover cultural capital. These opportunities include trips and visits to see performing professionals, showcasing to the community and a variety of extra-curricular clubs as well as being tutored by a range of practicing professionals.

Learners work on a range of instruments and voices, use technology and explore a wide range of genres, cultures and styles.

Music is taught fully inclusively at both key stages, and in mixed ability groups. There is equal access to music lessons for all students regardless of demographic, SEND status, disadvantage or any other characteristic.

Our Curriculum

At Key Stage 3, the music curriculum at Ormiston Denes fully encompasses the National Curriculum whilst also aiming to ensure that the aims of the Model Music Curriculum are met as much as possible within the curriculum time given.

In Years 7 to 9, students study music for one hour a fortnight in a fully resourced, purpose-built music room. Due to the limited musical experience at feeder schools and the lack of cultural capital in the catchment area, a vital experience the students need is learning to play an instrument and having access to live performance, so we focus on performance skills on a range of instruments which incorporates timing, notation, chords, melody, bass and rhythm. Students are also given Historical and contextual knowledge across all 3 years at Key stage 3.

Throughout Key Stage 3 students develop their skills through constant retrieval of the following fundamental principles:

- Rhythm, articulation, dynamics, tempo, texture, structure, harmony, instrumentation and tonality.
- Students need to be able to apply their knowledge to a range of musical styles and contexts.
- Students need to be able to perform as a soloist and in a group.

Listening and appraising is not covered as separate lessons but, instead, is incorporated into all topics; the same being true of singing and vocal work, which features within KS3 lessons, however we do teach singing as an introduction unit at the start of Year 7 before adding it into other topics. Students can develop and retain their knowledge because the music curriculum is designed to revisit key skills and knowledge throughout both Key Stages.

Students access music technology as part of both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 by using a full class set of computers with MIDI keyboards. Students in years 7 to 9 use the online platform BandLab to support their composition and arrangement skills and to develop their understanding of music technology tools.

At the end of each project in Key Stage 3, students are assessed on both practical and theoretical aspects of the curriculum and students are given the chance to review their learning.

To reflect a 5-year journey, the core knowledge for the Pearson Tech Award in Music Practice is built into all schemes of learning at Key Stage 3, as it is the intention that all students are in a position to access the Key Stage 4 curriculum as an option choice.

At Key Stage 4 students have the opportunity to further develop their skills and knowledge through the Pearson Tech Award in Music Practice.

Specification - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice 2022

The following document shows a visual representation of the students' five-year journey Curriculum Intention Map

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Ormiston Denes, we offer a range of instrumental tuition in addition to timetabled classroom music lessons. These include stringed instruments as well as guitar, drums, violin and piano. The academy works with a set of inspirational, experienced tutors to deliver high quality individual lessons each week. All students who wish to have the opportunity to access these lessons which the Academy provides free of charge through pupil premium funding.

The music room is a thriving community at lunchtimes where like-minded individuals form lasting friendships through a love of music and the academy has four fully equipped practice spaces which students can use before and after school and can be booked for further practice time. Extra-curricular school clubs are also available to enrich students' learning, including Instrumental club, vocal group,DAW sessions, band practices and getting involved in the school production, both on and off stage.

The academy also provides enrichment days where the Performing Arts and Music department collaborate to provide performing experience for all students in a year group.

Part C: Musical experiences

Musical Events.

Students get regular opportunities to take part in performances at the academy and as part of music events in the local community. The music department also collaborates with other staff to put on a musical every 2 years.

The main events which have featured in the last few years include:

- Denes Got Talent annually - which is open to every year group, taking part in auditions and a live final performed to a community audience.
- Annual Christmas showcases to a community audience.
- Performing Arts Showcase
- The academy's annual production of a musical for community audiences.
- Entries annually into Ormiston's Got Talent.
- Collaborative performances at Lowestoft's First Light Festival.
- Academy events; open evening, music and poetry night, Christmas fayre, Summer fayre.

Students have also visited local sixth form colleges to experience live performances and have taken part in composing workshops provided by visitors from these colleges, providing vital insight into music Further Education.

In the future

Music Technology

- Bandlab is fully embedded into KS3 curriculum from Y7 and also used as the KS4 DAW,

Live performance

- At Denes we are striving to make sure all students gain experience at some point during the academic year to watch or attend a live performance.

Trips and Visits

- Offer opportunities to see professional performances
- Take part in workshops

Additional

- Allow access for more students to learn an instrument throughout their time at Denes.

Further information

The leadership in music changed in September 2025 and a continuing rolling curriculum is in place. From September 2026 Ormiston Academy Trust has embedded an aligned curriculum for all subject areas across all year groups.