Music development plan summary: *Oakley School*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	18 July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Robert Thompson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Warwickshire Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	*Heart of England Music Hub (which Warwickshire Music is part of)* *OneNation Studios*

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.

Primary Phase:

- Year 1 will be taught for one hour per week, split into 2x30minute lessons, in their regular classroom.
- Pupils will learn how to perform in time with a variety of percussion, using their bodies as percussion, and engage in whole-class singing.
- Additionally, they will learn how to listen to, and understand elements of, music, with concentration and precision.
- Schemes of work will take inspiration from the NPME2, GetSet4Education, and preparation for Oakley School KS3.

- As the school expands, this provision will increase, with recommendation from NPME2, Warwickshire Music, and preparation for Oakley School KS3.

Secondary Phase:

- Year 7 and 8 pupils receive one hour of music per week throughout the academic year.
- In Year 9, pupils narrow their subject offering via 'options' to prepare for KS4.
- Those who choose Music in Year 9 receive two hours of music per week throughout the academic year.
- The KS3 curriculum focuses on performing, composing, listening, and appraising. Pupils explore music through a wide range of styles and contexts, developing their musical identity and creativity.
- SEND pupils are supported through flexible groupings, and inclusive teaching strategies.
- Many pupils also take instrumental lessons through peripatetic provision and apply these skills in class.
- The school does not yet have KS4 cohorts, but as we expand we will likely offer either Eduqas GCSE Music, or WJEC Performing Arts Level 1/2, or both, as suitable for pupils' needs.
- Pupils who require alternate provision receive individual tuition in partnership with staff from OneNation Studios

KS3:

In Year 7, pupils begin with the fundamentals of rhythm, pitch, and other musical elements, using djembe drums, their voice, keyboards, and orchestral instruments. They are introduced to music technology through GarageBand, composing with loops and pentatonic scales. The year concludes with a unit on Blues, where pupils learn ukulele, 12-bar blues structure, and improvisation.

In Year 8, pupils build on prior knowledge through songwriting, creating chord progressions and original lyrics. They explore musical storytelling and different tonality in 'Pictures at an Exhibition', composing with scales and modes using GarageBand. The year ends with a focus on Samba, introducing syncopation, specific rhythmic ideas, and combining ensemble performance with composition and improvisation.

In Year 9, pupils who opt for music deepen their skills in preparation for KS4. They study Reggae, Minimalism, Film Music, Fanfares, and Bhangra. Each unit integrates performance, composition, and music theory, with increasing use of tools like MuseScore and DAWs, whilst encouraging pupils to use their individual skillset (e.g. their own instrument). Pupils explore cultural and historical contexts, develop their own musical style, and work with greater independence.

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.

In 2024-25, 47 pupils in Y7 & 8 received peripatetic lessons from Warwickshire Music, or our private peripatetic teachers. Some of these received tuition on multiple instruments. As the school is still expanding, this equates to approximately 14% of pupils on-roll in the secondary phase.

For 2025-26, this is set to expand significantly, with another year group intake in the secondary phase, and with peripatetic lessons being offered from Year 1. Most peripatetic staff have no vacancy, with extra days or additional staff being looked at as a solution.

Many of our pupils also take peripatetic lessons privately or using other local providers that we do not currently have partnerships with (e.g. Top of the Rock tuition). These pupils are still catered for in our extra-curricular programme.

Primary Phase:

- In 2025-26 the only cohorts will be Reception and Year 1.
- Due to this, and staffing, no formal extra-curricular music will be offered.
- Informal groups may be created, with the assistance of secondary phase pupils.
- Group offerings will vary and increase as the department grows.

Secondary Phase:

- School Choir
- School Orchestra / Band
- GarageBand Club
- Group offerings will vary and increase as the department grows.

Informal opportunities:

- Secondary phase pupils can use our three practise rooms at break and lunchtime, when not in use by peripatetic staff
- A booking system is used to manage the demand for these rooms, with all 3 rooms often being booked at every break & lunch

- Many pupils will use this time to form their own bands, rehearse pieces from curriculum lessons, peripatetic lessons, or just for their own enjoyment.
- Pupils will often informally perform for their friends, both in their year group, and to others
- Many pupils also use our mac mini suite to compose their own music on GarageBand during break & lunch.
- Again, pupils use this opportunity to further their composition skills and show their music to peers and friends across year groups.

All extra-curricular activities are free of charge. To accommodate this, they are run by Oakley School staff, or informally by pupils themselves.

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.

Primary:

- Building on success in 2024-25, Reception perform their nativity production for parents and the local community
- Live music assemblies to be provided in partnership with Warwickshire Music, and other providers.
- Singing Assemblies for EYFS & KS1
- Performance assemblies for EYFS & KS1 pupils (e.g. Piano & Voice)

Secondary:

- Building on success in 2024-25, Secondary pupils will have the opportunity to perform in the Christmas Concert, as well as expanding into additional events (e.g. Summer Showcase)
- Pupils to perform at public facing events (such as Open Evening)
- Collaborative events provided by Warwickshire Music or other local partners (e.g. similar to 2024-25, with the *Come & Play Orchestra*, and *Wicked! Vocal Workshop*)
- Live music assemblies to be provided in partnership with Warwickshire Music, and other providers.
- Use of pupil compositions for backing music at school events (e.g. House Assemblies)

Cross-Phase:

- Christmas Carols at the Bishop's Tachbrook Community Café
- Live music assemblies to be provided in partnership with Warwickshire Music, and other providers.
- Stowe Valley MAT Performing Arts Showcase at Belgrade Theatre
- Additional opportunities in the local community (specifically Bishops' Tachbrook)

Recent Trips & Events:

- *Come & Play Orchestra* organised by Warwickshire Music
- Reception nativity (with support from School Choir)
- Christmas Carols at the Bishop's Tachbrook Community Café
- Oakley School Christmas Concert
- Ethel String Quartet performance for Y7, provided by Leamington Music
- *Wicked! Vocal Workshop* at Warwick Arts Centre, organised by Heart of England Music Hubs
- House 'GarageBand Composition' competition

Cost of events may vary depending on event and organiser. Where possible, subsidy is provided (e.g. *Wicked! Vocal Workshop* was a free event, with the coach travel fully subsidised by Oakley Music Department).

Pupil Premium funding, or other budgets, are used where possible to ensure this barrier to access is removed.

In the future

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

Curriculum Music:

- Continuing expansion into KS2 & KS4 as school grows, ensuring quality curriculum planning within each Key Stage, considering advice from NPME2, National Curriculum, and HMI Christopher Stevens.
- Whole-Class-Ensemble-Teaching (WCET) to be offered in KS2, in partnership with Warwickshire Music.
- GCSE or WJEC Vocational Award offered at KS4
- Potential for L1 award for Y9 (e.g. Arts Award)

Co-curricular Music:

- Further performance opportunities for both formally run, and informal groups.
- “Summer Showcase” to be offered in addition to Christmas Concert (co-ordinating with Drama to avoid production conflicts)
- Expansion of offerings in Primary Phase (e.g. KS2 choir), or cross-phase (e.g. Y5-7 choir)
- Further staff-led groups to be created as department grows
- Expansion of instrumental tuition:
    - Of existing provision if extensive waiting lists develop (e.g. additional guitar, piano, or drum tutor)
    - Increasing options available in Primary Phase (from Piano, Suzuki Violin, and Voice at KS1, to include Brass, Woodwinds, Drum Kit, and Guitar from KS2)
    - Of other provision to meet the needs of pupils in the local community (e.g. Dhol, Tabla, etc)

Musical Experiences:

- KS2 children participate in Warwickshire Young Voices
- Potential visit to the CBSO for their Primary & KS3 concerts.
- Other local music groups (e.g. Leamington Sinfonia, Royal Spa Brass, etc) invited to perform
- Partnerships with other local providers and venues
- Music residential / tour to Europe (e.g. Austria, Netherlands, etc) to perform

Further information (optional)

Warwickshire Music

One Nation Studios

Leamington Music – Championing Music in Our Community

Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Orchestra

The Swan Youth Orchestra - Orchestra Of The Swan

After School Choirs – Armonico Consort Academy

Warwickshire Youth Choirs

Stagecoach Leamington Spa

Stagecoach Warwick
Playbox Theatre Warwick
Royal Spa Brass
Leamington Sinfonia
Young Sounds UK: Connect Programme – Heart of England Music
Families and Early Years | Warwick Arts Centre
Ofsted | Music Mark
What the national plan for music education means for children and young people - GOV.UK