

Music development plan summary: Fitzharrys School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	December 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Luke Adam
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Catherine Hartley
Name of local music hub	Oxfordshire County Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	OX14 Partnership

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.

As a school we deliver a high-quality and aspirational music provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum includes the key features of the National Plan for Music Education and the non-statutory model music curriculum.

Key Stage 3 music is taught over a two-week timetable where pupils attend two lessons every two weeks. During lessons pupils take part in differing musical activities depending on the scheme of work. In the main classroom pupils will take part in listening activities, composition, whole class performance and singing, and perform the pieces of work they will have been rehearsing. In the rehearsal rooms pupils rehearse in groups playing differing instruments depending on the scheme of work. From year 8 upwards they will be able to use electric and bass guitars in rehearsal rooms. In the music technology room pupils take part in composition and music production activities.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum ensures that pupils are continually building on their prior learning, developing their music skills and understanding. Key Stage 3 homework is set twice every half term and is based on the scheme of work they are currently studying. The Key Stage 4 curriculum consists of one Level 2 course, [the BTEC Technical Award in Music Practice Music Practice \(2022\)](#). This course is run because it focuses in pupils developing as musicians and working in a way musicians work as professionals. It is a flexible course that caters to pupils' musical skills and facilitates their development and gives them every opportunity to develop. Key Stage 4 music is taught over a two-week timetable where pupils attend five lessons every two weeks.

Please [click here](#) to access the school's Music curriculum map.

We have good links with our local Music hub and other local peripatetic teachers, inviting their teachers to deliver lessons to our students. We co-ordinate with them to help plan our extra-curricular music provision.

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 have a range of instrumental lessons beyond the core curriculum which all students can apply for. Our local music hub delivers lessons on Violin, Cello, Piano, Keyboard, Clarinet, Saxophone, Drum Kit, Guitar and Bass Guitar. We also have an independent Brass teacher who teaches Tuba, French Horn, Trombone and Trumpet, and an independent Piano teacher. All lessons can be either individual or small group, depending on ability and preference. The fees vary according to group size and lesson time and are set by the delivering body.

Lessons take place on a weekly rotation basis, so students do not miss the same school lesson twice in a row. The music Hub offers an instrumental loan scheme as well as financial support so that all pupils can access these opportunities.

If appropriate, students can work towards Graded Instrumental Exams as part of their lessons either through Trinity College, Associated Board (exams are facilitated through the Music Hub), London College of Music or Rock School London.

We offer a variety of ensembles and activities which pupils can take part in each week. These currently are the School Musical, Choir, Orchestra, recording studio skills and Soul Band. These are free to join and be a part of. These groups perform at different events during the academic year including the Carol Concert, School Show, Summer Concert and Summer Talent Show known as 'Stars.'

We also promote and advertise the county level groups run by our local music hub and beyond with several pupils playing in the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra.

In addition, all pupils are welcome at lunchtimes to use the department rehearsal rooms when they are not being used for teaching or school run rehearsals. Pupils in Year 10 and 11 are able to use the recording studio at lunch times.

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.

Our school groups and individuals perform internally/ externally on a regular basis. This includes:

- Christmas Carol Concert
- Annual school show
- Summer Concert
- Rehearsals and performance(s) with the Oxford Bach Choir
- 'Anything But Classical' performances as a part of the local schools partnership, 'OX14'
- Band Night in collaboration with other schools
- School talent show 'Stars'
- Lunchtime performances by pupil bands and groups
- Termly awards assemblies

In the future

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

We intend to develop the opportunities for all students to rehearse and perform across the school year as our intake increases.

By the school year 2026-27, there will be a Core opportunity (i.e. for every student) in one year that is music and performance based.

We intend to increase our partnership work in the local community, including working with primary schools and care homes.

We will continue to seek out opportunities to collaborate with external providers such as those in the OX14 partnership, and the County Music Service, and Oxford Bach Choir.

Belonging and ownership will be promoted through branded items such as T shirts for participants to wear with pride. We will increase the visibility of student participation, by celebrating those who participate in extra-curricular music through whole-school assemblies and Epraise.

Senior students, such as those engaged in BTECs in Music and Performing Arts, will have increased opportunities to showcase their work, to celebrate and inspire.