

Outwood Academy Portland Music Development Plan summary:

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.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Sally Nelson-Fish
Name of local music hub	Inspire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NYCGB, The Halle

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.

At Outwood Academy Portland, students study music for one hour per week in Key Stage 3.

Students who choose music as an option study GCSE music in Year 10 for 3 hours and in year 11 for 2 hours per week.

Our curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (MMC).

At Outwood Academy Portland students are exposed to a wide range of musical styles from Classical and Popular music to music from different cultures around the world. Students build on their cultural capital through this exploration of different genres, whilst also focusing on musical elements, theory, composition, note-reading and performance skills.

Students have the opportunity to develop skills on keyboard, ukulele (leading to guitar and bass guitar), djembe drums and music technology software throughout Year 7-9. At KS3, students work individually and in pairs to develop as keyboard players. Whole-class ukulele and drumming workshops promote ensemble skills and work in small groups to combine their keyboard, ukulele, vocal, guitar and percussion skills as part of a band. This collaborative approach develops musicianship, as well as the wider skills of patience, resilience, teamwork and confidence.

Outwood Academy Portland works closely with Inspire Music Service (local music hub) on classroom, instrumental lessons and enrichment opportunities. We work with the NYCGB and perform annually at the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham. The partnership formed with the Halle Orchestra has inspired many of our instrumentalists, who have gone on to study Music. We also have strong working partnerships with the other secondary schools in our local area and the Outwood Academy Community, working together on curriculum planning and extra-curricular activities, including joint concerts and other music-making events. This year we look forward to an alumni concert, Year 6 transition event, workshop and collaborative concert with feeder primaries, a piano masterclass in collaboration with Worksop College, the Worksop Music Festival, Outwood Performer of the Year, amongst others.

Students have the opportunity to study Music in Year 10 and Year 11 through the AQA GCSE course. This leads into the AQA A Level Music course offered at Post 16.

Students are encouraged to work towards graded instrumental examinations with ABRSM, Rock School and Trinity College, the demand for which has led to us becoming host venue for ABRSM.

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.

At Outwood Academy Portland, students have the opportunity to receive high-quality individual/shared tuition on every orchestral instrument, voice, guitar and piano. These lessons take place during the school day and are offered to everyone at a subsidised cost of £110 per term (£60 shared). Lessons are free of charge to students receiving Free School Meals and/or studying GCSE/A Level Music. These lessons are provided by Inspire and private tutors. Students can borrow instruments from school for practice and there are practice rooms available after school for private practice and small group rehearsal.

ENSEMBLES

Students can join a plethora of ensembles offered during enrichment and tutor time, including concert band, choir, training orchestra, percussion ensemble, keyboard club, rock bands, woodwind ensemble, brass ensemble and a new Ska band. We are also working on a whole school musical as a faculty.

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.

The musical talent across all key stages is showcased in termly concerts, which are extremely well-attended by parents, friends, staff and members of the community. In addition, there are numerous opportunities to perform at professional venues, from the Royal Albert Hall to the Royal Concert Hall, CAST to local churches and Worksop College recital hall.

We are introducing a series of more intimate recitals, providing further opportunity for our musicians to gain confidence and develop their performing experience.

Students are consistently inspired by experiencing the work of professional musicians. We run a yearly London Theatre Trip where students watch two shows and have an opportunity to perform alongside members of the cast in workshops and take part in a Q&A session.

At Christmas we host a family carol service, involving the feeder primary schools and giving our musicians the opportunity to inspire younger, aspiring students.

In the future

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

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We hope to be able to expand our extra curricular offer by increasing the number of students accessing instrumental lessons, ensuring an equality of opportunity for all.

We also aim to further increase the opportunities for students to experience live performances and work with professional performers and composers. We would like to further strengthen our links with the feeder schools and local community, sharing our Artsmark Gold expertise and raising the profile of music and the arts.