

Music development plan summary

Outwood Academy Acklam

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	E. Dodsworth & C. McLoughlin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	D. Callcutt
Name of local music hub	Tees Valley Music Service
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.

Outwood Academy Acklam seeks to create a practical KS3 curriculum, inspired by the [Model Music Curriculum](#). All students in KS3 receive 1 hour of music tuition per week.

Outwood Academy Acklam also offers GCSE music via the Eduqas examination board. KS4 students receive 3 hours divided into appraising (listening), performing and composing. The current number of KS4 students taking GCSE music is increasing.

Our curriculum allows students to experience a wide range of instruments (covering every instrumental family) as per the [national plan for music education](#). We include whole-class ensemble teaching within the curriculum. Students learn key concepts

through “doing”, via performance, composition, improvisation and listening. We are in the process of ensuring that every instrumental family is included at a specific point within our curriculum so that students will have the opportunity to discover their favourite instruments. They also have the opportunity to extend their learning outside of the classroom through peripatetic lessons. Short singing activities occur within the Year 7-8 scheme and are further supported by enrichments (extra-curricular activities). Our curriculum overview is available on our [website](#).

Musical literacy is part of student development. It is achieved mostly through practical means, but we are currently introducing more regular short written activities to further embed understanding.

SEND students are supported through many teaching techniques such as dual coding. Every task is designed with incremental steps allowing all to participate, and specific tasks feature differentiation within the task set as well as by outcome. The school SEND policy is available [here](#).

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.

There are many opportunities for students to explore their interests outside of the classroom via enrichments (after school clubs) and peripatetic lessons in pairs.

Within the year we have the following, free-of-charge enrichment activities: Guitar Club

KS3 Singing Club

Keyboard and Garage band Club

GCSE Music Club

Violin Club

Students can learn with our own multi-instrumental and singing teacher in pairs (£6.20 for 20 mins per week) or through additional support from Tees Valley Music Service (TVMS). Teaching is available on most instruments. Currently we have students learning bass guitar, drum kit, guitar, piano, singing, recorder, violin and flute. We have further availability in trumpet, french horn, trombone and tuba. Further instruments are available via TVMS as well as instrumental hire (for an additional cost per month).

School has two additional practice rooms that students are welcome to use after school when a member of staff is available (typically Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) to practice. They are also welcome to borrow school instruments to practice within these rooms when they don't have their own at home.

There is financial support available for pupil premium students and requests for support are made directly to the principal.

Part C: Musical Performance Opportunities

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.

During the year there are three main opportunities for student involvement in public music making:

1. Christmas Concert at the end of the Autumn Term.
2. School Drama Production at the end of the Spring Term.
3. Summer Concert for instrumental ensembles and soloists towards the end of the Summer Term.

Participation for all events and rehearsals is free for students. Tickets are sold for audience members only. The whole school is invited to attend performances so that they experience live performance in the community and to encourage support for peers involved in the performing arts as a whole.

In the future

The school intends to maintain the once per term performance opportunities via the Christmas Concert, Spring Drama Production and Summer Instrumental Ensembles concert.

The department has a long-term plan to significantly expand the number of different instruments available for students to have the opportunity to try out and to then learn on.

The department seeks to increase participation in peripatetic lessons within 2025-2026 to 5% of the school cohort and beyond this in subsequent years.

The department intends to further increase the already existing wide range of instrumental and vocal ensembles. It seeks to significantly enhance the quality of each group and to develop more vocal harmony within singing groups.

The department has a new fully equipped music suite with macs and connected keyboards to further enhance composition and performance tasks. The department has a vision of expanding this to two fully equipped classrooms to allow equal opportunity for all students in the use of Garageband tasks.

The Performing Arts department as a whole is seeking to bring individual artists/musicians into the school to further inspire students and as “masterclasses”.

The department aspires to having more students taking music exams and involvement in community or even national ensembles such as National Youth Choir of Great Britain.

Further information (optional)

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.

TVMS also run ensembles for students that have 1-1 peripatetic lessons with them and is developing a [local plan for music education](#).

Outwood Academy Acklam benefits from being part of the Outwood Academy Trust which includes CPD, multi-school events (such as the Outwood Performer of the Year) and collaboration between multiple heads of department.