# Music Development Plan summary: Whitelands Academy

## Overview

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| Detail | Information |
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2024-2025 |
| Date this summary was published | 27/3/2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | 1/9/2025 |
| Name of the school music lead | Sarah Davies |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Rachel Brown/Freddie Forder |
| Name of local music hub | Oxfordshire County Music Service Centre for Music |
| 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.

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|  | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 | Term 5 | Term 6 |
| Year 7  One lesson per week | An Introduction to Musical Elements (inc singing) | Keyboard Skills | Instruments of the Orchestra (Ode to Joy – Beethoven) | Introduction to musical genres: Minimalism(tech) | Introduction to musical genres: Blues and Jazz | Introduction to musical genres: Reggae |
| Year 8  One lesson per week | Developing understanding of Rhythm and Pitch | Developing performance skills | Developing understanding of Instruments of the Orchestra (Ode to Joy – Beethoven) | Developing musical genres: Minimalism(tech) | Developing musical genres: Blues and Jazz | Developing musical genres: Reggae |
| Year 9  One lesson per week | Simple VS Compound time signatures (also inc. a recap of pitch | Enhancing performance skills | Exploring Instruments of the Orchestra  (Ode to Joy – Beethoven) | Exploring musical genres: Minimalism(tech) | Exploring musical genres: Blues and Jazz | Exploring musical genres: Reggae |

There are currently plans to introduce GCSE Music following the AQA syllabus subject to student demand.

## Part B: Extra-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.

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| Students at Whitelands Academy have access to a range of peripatetic lessons, delivered by specialist tutors from Oxfordshire County Music Service. Currently we have students studying both Piano and Guitar in paired and solo lessons. These lessons are chargeable with rates varying on length of lesson and number of pupils receiving tuition in each lesson.  Students can access and make use of the department's facilities including practice rooms, drum kit and use of the Apple Macs outside of lesson time by signing up with Music staff.  We have a vocal ensemble and a Music club which are free and open to students of all abilities in all year groups, by signing up online. Both are facilitated by Music staff but are student led in terms of interests, genres and ability. |

## 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.

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| Whitelands Academy hosts a Christmas Showcase, giving all students the opportunity to showcase their musical talents. The concert is open to all students in all year groups, and we encourage a variety of performance styles. Students are supported by Music and Tech staff to ensure they are comfortable performing on stage using a microphone.  Whitelands Academy is also due to host the Summer Soire; another opportunity for students of any age and ability to share their performances with an audience in a relaxed yet formal setting.  Both events are free to participate, and free to attend; tickets can be obtained via the schools purchasing platform.  In addition, each year we put on a production, open to all year groups, with a fully inclusive cast. Whilst lead parts are auditioned for, all students are welcome to join the chorus. Participation is free, and students can be signed up online. This is a chargeable ticketed event for audience members – tickets can be purchased via an online link. |

## In the future

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

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| **Plans for Whitelands Academy Music Department:**   * Increase lesson time for 1 hour per week * Offer GCSE Music as an option for upper school students * Encourage students to continue with instrumental lessons with the aim of being able to begin a school orchestra or band * Continue to grow the curriculum to ensure all students in KS3 have a broad understanding of Musical Elements, contexts and genres. * Consider offering organised trips to live concerts or performances |

## Further information

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| [Music Service | Oxfordshire County Council](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/music-service) - links for learning an instrument, music groups and support from Oxfordshire County Music Service.  The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-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. |