Music development plan summary: Ormiston Forge Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	12/6/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Laura Arnold
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Dr Lisa Mason
Name of local music hub	Dudley Performing Arts (DPA)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	SIPS Pro-Music

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 Ormiston Forge Academy we offer one hour per week of music education to all Key Stage 3 students (Year 7-9). For those students who opt to study Music further, we offer three hours per week of music study.

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3 has been designed around the Model Music Curriculum published by the DfE in March 2021. This curriculum supports the development of students' knowledge and skills in both theoretical and practical music skills. Students are given a range of opportunities to learn to sing or play an instrument through individual, paired or group performances.

Throughout the Key Stage 3 curriculum there are opportunities for students to develop their confidence and skills in performance through modules such as Sonority city, African Drumming, Blues and Reggae, building upon the foundations of music in year 7. All Key Stage Three curriculum plans can be found here.

We are proud that our curriculum is made accessible for all by involving a range of different instruments to layer sounds creating a multi-sensory approach, the use of technology to support learning where appropriate, modelling practical examples, and memory and consolidation techniques. Music is unique in its ability to develop creative

opportunities as well as develop essential skills like listening, working co-operatively, developing personal expression, developing alternative forms of communication and enhancing a sense of wellbeing and personal achievement. We encourage students to appreciate a wide variety of music forms. We build upon this through a variety of approaches including, video clips of performances, listening to pieces of music, developing visual word banks and symbols as well as offering challenge to encourage resilience and determination.

At Key Stage 4, students who opt to take music further are able to gain a qualification in BTEC Music Practice, building on the knowledge and skills they have learnt in Key Stage 3. The Key Stage 4 curriculum can be found here. Students who stay on at Ormiston Forge Academy's Sixth Form also have the exciting opportunity to take their passion for music further through the BTEC Extended Certificate in Music Performance. The curriculum plan for this course can be found here.

The breadth of our curriculum and exposure to varied instruments and opportunities is enhanced by SIPS- Sandwell Music and Arts Service, as well as Pro-Music, both of which offer personalised tuition for a number of instruments including: woodwind, drums, guitar, piano, vocals and violin.

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.

At Ormiston Forge Academy we are able to offer one-to-one tuition through SIPS or Pro-teach to any student interested in taking up an instrument regardless of their experience. We are proud to be able to offer these lessons for free and encourage all those young pupils coming up from primary school to continue their music lessons.

We are also able to offer 2 large practice rooms for individuals or groups, we have three music room teaching spaces as well as a performance space for music, dance and performing arts.

Outside of lesson time we run several clubs and encourage an active participation. These include: Keyboard club, vocal group, school production team and drama club. Students have the opportunity to create their own bands or groups and use practice space regularly to develop their talents.

Across the academic year we encourage students to get involved in opportunities such as our Christmas Concert and Summer Concert, Prize Giving Ceremony, Annual Musical Production and Performance nights. We also encourage students to take up the opportunity of experiences like the London Musical Theatre Excursion and visits to recording studios.

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.

Every year we run a Performing Arts Musical, to involve singing, dancing and acting performances. Last year we put on the musical '9 to 5 Junior' and previously the 'Shrek Junior, School of Rock and Matilda.' Each year we encourage students to take part in an audition for particular roles and enjoy after school and weekend practice for the cast and ensemble. We also encourage students to take part in staging, lighting and costume, to allow students a broad experience of performing arts.

Another way that students can get involved in Ormiston Forge Academy's musical programme is through supporting after school events, for example the annual Prize Giving Ceremony, open to all parents, and our annual opening evenings. We also deliver a Christmas and Summer concert, open to all year groups to take part in or watch and encourage parents to get involved too. Most of these events are free or ask for a small donation between £3-5.

We also encourage participation in our annual 'Forge Has Got Talent' whole school competition. All students across all year groups are encouraged to apply and can enter as solo acts, pairs or groups. Acts range from musical tributes, bands, solos or group performances, including dance and acting performances.

In the future

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

Ormiston Forge Academy meets 6 of the DfE's high quality music provision points including:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stage 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments and voice
- a school choir
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

In the future Ormiston Forge Academy is working towards supporting students taking up the opportunity to perform in bands or groups. This will be done increasing outside opportunities for visits, in particular to see live performances. Sourcing outside speakers and performers to come in to school. As well as increasing other partnerships, for example with Birmingham Symphony Hall and the CBSO.

Forge regularly reviews its curriculum and is keen to ensure it keeps up to date with latest trends in music to engage students in the curriculum. Student voice also helps to ensure that we consider student interest.

Finally, Ormiston Forge Academy is also looking to the future to consider how facilities and equipment can be upgraded to ensure that students are given the best of experiences and opportunities.

Please see the DfE's guide for parents and young people on how you can get involved in music inside and outside of school, and where you can go to for further support beyond Ormiston Forge.