

Music development plan summary: Chipping Norton School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	September 2025-August 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Christopher Brown
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Alan Trainer
Name of local music hub	Oxfordshire County 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, extra-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.

Students access a wide curriculum, covering performance, composition and listening skills.

At KS3, Music is taught for an hour a week. Within our KS3 curriculum, a 15 minute homework is also set once every two weeks in the form of Multiple Choice Questions based on units of work being studied. The curriculum is supported in part by the model music curriculum. Students have chances to sing and play in lesson time, either individually or in groups. This is often on keyboards/pianos.

At KS4, students have 6 hours of lessons over two weeks, with an average of 30 minutes homework per week. Students study the EDUQAS GCSE Music course.

At present, there is no KS5 teaching, but the EDUQAS A level Music course would be offered.

Our department is well equipped, with over 25 keyboards, several xylophones and glockenspiels, a class set of Djembe (30), 3 drum kits, a large range of untuned percussion, 8 pianos across the 6 practice rooms and 2 large teaching spaces. Our school hall also houses a Grand Piano. There is also a Music Tech studio.

For more details on the curriculum please see the [curriculum pages](#) on our school website

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.

Outside of curriculum lesson time, students have opportunity to take music lessons on instruments or singing. We have 8 visiting peripatetic teachers from the Oxford County Music Service and some private tutors as well. The range of instruments includes all strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass), woodwind (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon), brass (trumpet, cornet, French Horn, trombone, euphonium, baritone, tuba) and percussion (drum kit). Charges and information can be found here.

Our private tutors teach piano, guitar (all varieties) and singing. Please contact [Mr C S Brown](#) for more information about charging for these.

Ensembles rehearse at lunchtime, and include:

Monday – Folk and Acoustic Music club

Tuesday – Choir (all years). After school – Brass group.

Wednesday – Concert Band

Thursday – Music Tech group

Friday – Flute Ensemble and a Keyboard Group

Any student can join in with Folk group, Music Tech group and Choir. For Concert Band, this is limited to those who are having music lessons on an instrument. For flute ensemble, students need to be able to play the flute to any standard. All ensembles are free.

The CNS Music department has a small selection of instruments available for free loan, including flutes, guitars, clarinet, baritone and trumpet. We would welcome any donations of functioning instruments at any time to support students who wish to start lessons.

Students can make use of the 6 practice rooms and bigger teaching spaces outside of lesson time, by arrangement with the department.

Part C: Musical Performances

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.

Regular events during the academic year include Christmas, Spring and Summer concerts. These typically involve all the ensembles and soloists (instrumental and singing).

Also included are two solo evenings. One is the KS3 evening, and the other is the KS4/5 evening.

All school-based concerts have a ticket price of £4.00.

In the Autumn term, we welcome students from our primary schools to join the Concert Band for the afternoon and a mini performance.

In the Spring term, we often take part in the Chipping Norton Music Festival, either in our ensembles or students individually entering.

Some students will occasionally perform in assembly, or for open evenings.

In the past couple of years we have performed 'Matilda' and 'The Addams Family', and 'Peter Pan and Wendy'. There is no major production this academic year, but we hope to have one next year.

In the future

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

At present, we are continuing to review the use of Music Technology to enhance and support students. Updates of equipment are ongoing, to include a wider range of classroom percussion. Initial planning stages of a production for next year are also taking place.