

Music development plan summary: Brownhills Ormiston Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jack Pierce
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Walsall Music Education Hub
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

The Brownhills Music Curriculum will ensure students know how make more music, think more musically and consequently, become more musical. Students will become better performers, better composers and more sophisticated listeners. Music at Brownhills is ambitious, knowledge-rich and taught in the context of music's history and provenance to allow students to create effective musical responses.

Brownhills Music students know that:

- Brownhills is a singing school.
- We ask ourselves 'what can I actually hear?'
- We practise more, so we remember more.

This curriculum is designed to harness the wide-ranging opportunities presented in an arts-rich school to transform the thinking, appreciation and behaviours of young people to become culturally competent citizens. By taking a highly practical approach to addressing the key skills and concepts addressed on the National Curriculum and beyond, we prepare our students to develop a lifelong love of the subject that they can apply to the wider community and possibly, their careers. British Choral Tradition will lie at the heart of our curriculum offer and Brownhills students will all experience and learn through

massed choir singing throughout their learning journey. We will provide creative opportunities for students to find their own voice and develop discipline and confidence through high quality rehearsal. We will provide a sequence of concepts showing clear progression of skills and knowledge in Music. Musical vocabulary pertaining to musical features as well as wider contextual information will be explicitly taught throughout this curriculum. Our music curriculum aims to be relevant and equitable for all members of our community, using musical examples and aspirational role models that celebrate the importance and prevalence of diversity in our subject. It provides a framework from which relevant learning experiences can be planned, to broaden the horizons and experiences of Brownhills students, to enable them to recognise and take advantage of opportunities available to them, promoting the concept of aspirations.

This is an inclusive curriculum that allows all students to succeed. Our curriculum is ambitious, challenging and we use adaptive practice to support learners with SEND to be able to achieve musical excellence. We aim to *scaffold* rather than *differentiate* to ensure that all learners have access to the entire music curriculum and we support learners at different stages of their musical journeys to be able to achieve the same curriculum goals.

At KS3, students receive 1 hour of music lessons per week during lessons. We sing around the piano in every music lesson and students learn to play the keyboard as part of their music curriculum. Alongside this, students learn the fundamental skills used to compose music as well as critical listening skills to identify musical features from a range of different genres. Students learn about provenance and purpose also, to understand the history of music, different musical contexts around the world and some of the great composers of different genres of music. Our KS3 curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum and the National Curriculum for Music. It goes above and beyond these curricula to provide an ambitious and bespoke curriculum for the students of Brownhills and our drive for excellence and community music making

At KS4, students have the opportunity to study GCSE Music. We follow the Eduqas specification for music and have achieved consistently excellent results on this syllabus over many years. At KS4, students receive 3 hours of music lessons per week as well as opportunities to intervention beyond lesson time to improve their skills for this qualification. In KS4 lessons, students are taught performance, composition and listening skills and these are interleaved to prepare students for further study, careers and exploration in the world of music in the future.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Music enrichment is incredibly popular at Brownhills and provides the opportunity for students to further explore and develop their musical skills outside of lesson times. Our enrichment activities happen during morning sessions, lunchtimes and after school in our music department. We also have a series of rehearsal spaces available for students which they can use for individual or small ensemble rehearsal in their own time.

We have two choirs, which combined feature over 100 students (1/7 of our academy). Voices In Partnership is our flagship choir for students in Year 8 – Year 13. Our 4pm-5pm enrichment sessions allow alumni from local sixth forms and colleges to come back to the academy to attend these choir rehearsals. We are regularly joined by ex-students in Year 12 & 13 for rehearsals and concerts. Our senior choir perform throughout the year at concerts, awards ceremonies and in competitions. Voices Of The Future is our youth choir for students in Year 4 – Year 7. Similarly with this choir, students from local primary schools attend from 4pm-5pm to create a bigger community choir for our students. These singers our future students at the academy and it helps to create a sense of community and aspiration for our pupils who are working with their role models from as young as 8 years old. This approach is also taken with our academy band. Instrumentalists from Year 4 – Year 13 can also be part of our band. Our band is comprised of woodwind, brass and a rhythm section.

As well as these after school rehearsals, where ensembles feature students from the wider community, our Brownhills students also have a choir rehearsal and band rehearsal during the academy day. Our bands and choirs have sectional rehearsals during the academy to work on individual aspects of our ensembles for performances and competitions. All students are welcome to join these ensembles.

Our fantastic bands and choirs are facilitated by our music scholars programme. Students at Brownhills have access to free peripatetic tuition, supported by Walsall Music Education Hub. Students who show promise as vocalists and instrumentalists can audition to be music scholars at Brownhills or they can audition in Year 6, before they attend the academy to guarantee themselves one of these spaces before they join. We have lessons available during the academy day on the following instruments:

- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Baritone
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Drum Kit
- Guitar
- Voice
- Piano

Students can practice their instruments in our rehearsal rooms before school, a breaktime, lunchtime and after school.

As well as these ensembles, students have the opportunity of the academy show every year. Students rehearse for two hours per week as an ensemble. They can audition for main roles in the production or can choose to be part of the ensemble. This is always a

full-scale musical that is performed in the academy theatre for local primary schools and a paying public audience.

Part C: Musical experiences

As stated above, students have the chance to perform in concerts and shows throughout the year. Typically, in a year, students will perform in 2 music concerts and our full-scale musical production. Then there are other performance opportunities such as the House Arts Festival which is an Eisteddfod-style event where students compete in their houses, the Up & Comers Concert for Year 7 students to showcase their musical skills, half-termly busking events and our annual visit to the local community centre to sing Christmas Carols with members of the local community. In recent years we have also performed at a number of award ceremonies, and this year, we will be competing in the Barnardo's National Choral Competition.

We aim to run a number of trips every year to watch live theatre and music. This year, students will have the opportunity to attend shows at Birmingham Hippodrome, Wolverhampton Grand, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Birmingham Rep and RSC Stratford-Upon Avon.

We have also had touring theatre companies bring their productions to our theatre, such as The National Theatre's production of Jekyll & Hyde. In September 2025, Brownhills students took part in their first ever international music tour. 44 students travelled to Belgium for a series of concerts in Bruges and Ypres including a performance at the Menin Gate as part of the Last Post Ceremony. We hope to offer more opportunities like this for our students in the future.

In the future

We would like Brownhills to be a Centre of Excellence for Music. It is our intention to have more students entering ABRSM, LCM and Trinity RockschooL examinations to obtain qualifications to help them with their musical futures. In the future, we would like to work towards being able to compete in other regional and national competitions such as the Barnardo's National Choral Competition and the National Concert Band Festival. We always want to continue to grow the size of our choir and band and the opportunities they have to perform and develop their skills. We have made a fantastic start towards this in the past couple of years and we want to keep pushing students and working well as a community to drive musical standards and help this to grow.