

Music development plan summary: Brownhills Ormiston Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	1 st September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st September 2027
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.

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.

British Choral Tradition lies at the heart of our curriculum offer and Brownhills students experience massed choir singing throughout their learning journey.

Our music curriculum is ambitious and ensures that students can access music for the rest of their lives. There is a strong impetus of music theory running through our KS3 curriculum which ensures students can transition effectively to GCSE Music and use score throughout their lives to perform and access music in any way they choose to.

At KS3, students receive 1 hour of music lessons per week. We sing around the piano in every lesson and students learn keyboard, composition and listening skills.

At KS4, students can study GCSE Music following the Eduqas specification and receive 3 hours of music lessons per week.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Music enrichment is incredibly popular at Brownhills. We have recently received Music Mark Recognition for Ambition & Quality.

We have two choirs: Voices In Partnership (Years 8–13) and Voices Of The Future (Years 4–7). Last year, our choir performed Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* at Lichfield Cathedral with Jackfield Brass Band. Performance opportunities such as this are regular for our choir and represent our commitment to high quality music making and performance opportunities for our students.

We run an academy jazz band, concert band and primary band, supported by Walsall Music Education Hub. We also run a series of small rock and pop bands that are student led.

We have two music classrooms, an ensemble rehearsal room and two small rehearsal rooms for students to practise their instruments. We also have a number of venues around the school that are used as performance spaces including a 300-seater theatre with a baby grand piano, a small black box theatre and a lounge space that can be used for performances.

Students can access free peripatetic tuition through the music scholars programme supported by Walsall Music Education Hub.

Instruments available:

Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Drum Kit, Guitar, Voice, Piano.

Part C: Musical experiences

Students can take part in a number of concerts and performances throughout the year both onsite and offsite.

We also have House Competitions which include House Music and House Drama which provide students with opportunities to compete in arts-based competitions. These are student-led competitions led by our student musical leadership team.

Students have opportunities to attend performances at Birmingham Hippodrome, Wolverhampton Grand, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Birmingham Rep and RSC Stratford-upon-Avon.

Every two years, we run an overseas residential music tour, our last one was to Belgium and included a performance at The Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.

Students may also take part in the annual academy musical production or other smaller school plays that happen throughout the year.

In the future

We would like Brownhills to be a Centre of Excellence for Music. As part of this, we intend to apply for Arts Mark, Platinum Status.

We are aiming for our bands to be competing in NCBF competitions by 2029 and we will be entering our choir into the Barnardo's Choral Competition this year.

We are aiming to increase participation in ABRSM, LCM and Trinity Rockscool examinations to ensure students leave with qualifications to support their musical futures. Alongside this, we will be open more opportunities to work with professionals from the music industry, using local connections such as Birmingham Conservatoire.

We will also be aiming to launch a music festival from the school to support the development of young musicians by providing opportunities for performance and competition in the town and surrounding areas.

Further information

At Brownhills, we consider ourselves to be a music school. We run a music community with our local primary schools that aims to create musical pathways for young people to continue their musical education from 3-16. We work continuously with the wider community to engage parents, families, local people, local musicians and local businesses with music in the town to establish its importance in the community. We will continue to use music to drive and support aspirations in the town.