

Music Development Plan Summary: The Ongar Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Fiona Norman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	AHT Mr Will Ritchie
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Hub
Other Music Links	Bridge Academy Trust

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.

Opportunities for all

All students learn music notation as part of the curriculum. By the time they have completed Key Stage 3, they will have learnt to play or have accessed:

- Piano Keyboard
- The Ukulele
- Singing as a soloist and as a group
- Music Technology

All music making is either as a soloist or within an ensemble, depending on the suitability of the genre or the learning outcome.

Key Stage 3

Full curriculum map can be found [HERE](#)

At key stage 3, students have one hour of music a week.

SEND students are supported with adaptive and first-quality teaching. There are a number of other resources that are used for scaffolding, such as keyboard cards, notation cards, chord charts, help sheets and scheme of work resources that help all students achieve and progress towards the same curriculum outcomes.

The key stage 3 curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the students within Ongar. The [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021) has been considered, adapted and improved upon to ensure students are exposed to the full richness music can offer.

Key Stage 4

At key stage 4, those who have opted for GCSE Music have 3 hours a week.

If not included in your published school curriculum information, set out how time per week is allocated for curriculum music for each key stage and term (or each half-term) of the academic year.

Exam Board

The Ongar Academy use OCR for their GCSE examinations. The course specification can be found [HERE](#)

Essex Music Hub

The Ongar Academy is linked with EMH. The department take full advantage of free resources, courses and artist engagement projects.

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

Instrumental Tuition

Students are able to learn a variety of musical instruments on a one-to-one basis during the school day. The tuition is organised by the school and facilitated by Essex Music Services. Students have to pay £122 per term for 10 twenty-minute lessons per term or £183 for 10 thirty-minute lessons per term. If they are Pupil Premium, this can be subsidised.

Keyboard Club

Keyboard club meet on a Monday lunchtimes from 1.30-1.55pm. This activity is free, and all year groups are welcome. No registration is required; students have to turn up.

Ukulele Club

Keyboard club meet on a Tuesday lunchtimes from 1.30-1.55pm. This activity is free, and all year groups are welcome. No registration is required; students have to turn up.

Ongar Singers/Voices

School choir meet on a Wednesday lunchtimes from 1.30-1.55pm. This activity is free and all year groups are welcome. No registration is required, students simply have to turn up.

Lunchtime Practise Rooms

Students have access to practise rooms at lunchtime each day. There are four rooms with a piano or keyboard and a drum kit room. Students can use the rooms to explore their own passions, develop their instrumental skills and practise for up-coming assessments/performances.

Part C: Musical experiences

Whole School Musical

This year the school musical is Annie. Students in all year groups have the opportunity to either audition for a part, play in the band or help with the staging of the production.

Open Evening

Students have the opportunity to perform and support the school in the music department during Open Evening on 24th September 2026.

Performance Opportunity

The Ongar Academy has a concert each term – Christmas, Easter and Summer. All extra-curricular clubs and students on GCSE Music course participate.

In the future

The Ongar Academy is committed to improving its music provision over the coming years. This will include:

- Purchase of new computers and midi keyboards to improve music technology provision.
- Develop a practise room into a recording studio to enhance music technology provision.
- Improve the number of students having instrumental lessons through Bridge Academy Trust funded projects.
- Improve the number of ensembles available for students to join.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide 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.