

Music development plan summary: Iceni Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	4/3/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	4/3/2026
Name of the school music lead	Alicia Rickards
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Norfolk
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

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.

Our school curriculum Long Term Plan can be found on our school's website:

<https://iceniprimary.attrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2024/03/Long-Term-Plan-and-Powerful-Knowledge-and-Skills-MUSIC-March-2024.pdf>

This includes information about how we structure the timetable to include music lessons and musical opportunities, how our long term plan is related to the Model Music Curriculum, how we are inclusive in our teaching and information about the Norfolk Music Hub that we belong to (which includes a term for Year 4 children learning an orchestral instrument).

Please note that our Music Lead is a music specialist of 28 years in music teaching; she brings a passion for Steel Pan ensemble playing, Samba drumming plus tuned and untuned percussion, piano, string, recorder and ukulele instrument skills and knowledge as well as singing to our school.

Music lessons are mainly taught by the music specialist to each class; this academic year, some class teachers have been teaching from plans written by the Music Lead for non-specialist and this has been a very positive experience.

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.

The Norfolk Music Hub provides as part of our subscription a term of orchestral instrument playing for our Year 4 children.

Our music specialist spirals half term blocks of children learning the following instruments so that progression can be seen year on year as well as lesson on lesson: ocarinas, glockenspiels, ukuleles, steel pans, samba/djembe drumming and boomwhackers.

In terms of extra-curricular music making, Years 5 and 6 form our Oak Class Steel Band and any year group can join our weekly Samba Band and Choir. In addition, we have a musician from the Thetford Music Project teaches Ukulele Club. There are no charges or remissions for these clubs and no auditions are required.

The Thetford Music Project (TMP) is approx. 14 miles away from our school; several of our children attend and we signpost those who show particular interest in music to this

wonderful opportunity. Staff from TMP also come to our school to do an assembly and children leave with fliers.

Locally, we also have Voice Junction which has recently started a group in Mildenhall (approx. 10 miles away) and children who love to sing are signposted here. The Magic Floor Academy, also based in Thetford, and HATS (Hockwold Amateur Theatrical Society) often have our pupils and ex-pupils in their casts for shows.

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.

At Icen Primary Academy, we provide whole school performance opportunities four times each academic year:

- Harvest Festival utilising our community link to our local church
- Christmas Nativity performances for EYFS and KS1 as well as Christmas productions for KS2 classes. These are co-written by the teachers and the pupils; they include music and dance opportunities as well as drama
- Easter Dance Show (including class dances from the specialist dance teacher lessons and opportunities for our music ensembles to perform their term's music)
- Summer Show (children work independently on something they would like to 'audition' with. All children are always included and this is another opportunity for our music ensembles to perform)

In addition to our whole school performance opportunities, there are additional events our children perform at each year:

- Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- Local Christmas light switching on ceremony

There are also performance opportunities which come along differently each year: for example, last academic year our Oak Class Steel Band was invited to perform at the D-Day Celebrations on our village field.

In terms of being audience members this academic year, EYFS and KS1 travelled to the King's Lynn Corn Exchange to watch The Very Hungry Caterpillar; KS2 went to the same venue to watch the Cinderella pantomime. Last academic year, we were also able to fund (with the help of the Friends of Hockwold Site Association) the M&M Theatre Company coming to school to perform The Wizard of Oz.

Each academic year, our Music Lead makes sure all the children have had at least one opportunity to hear music played live; this can sometimes mean all children have listened to her playing the cello, recorder and steel pans or it can mean that outside

artists are invited in. For example, a parent of our school and a Grade 8 piano player performed for our children last academic year; we have also had singer Steven Yallop come into school to do singing workshops with our KS2 children. Musician, singer and songwriter Jon Lawrence has also visited the school several times over several years with his collection of world music instruments to workshop with the children; in addition, he wrote a WW2 musical called Tom's Windmill which our KS2 children performed.

In the future

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

This academic year, we have subscribed to the Norfolk Music Hub and are taking advantage of their term of orchestral instrument teaching for Year 4 children. Moving forwards, the aim is to sign up to one of their music projects per year in order to increase performance opportunities for our children.

We will also seek to perform with other schools in our Trust again as we did last academic year; instead of travelling to The Apex in Bury St Edmunds, the thinking is to focus the performance at our Trust's secondary school's site in Mildenhall (Mildenhall College Academy) which will reduce costs.

In terms of the seven features of high-quality music provision, our academy is proud to provide the following:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year; this consists of a 35 – 45 minute weekly music lesson plus a 30 minute whole school weekly Singing Assembly in which singing skills are taught
- access to lessons across a range of instruments (see Part C)
- a school choir or vocal ensemble (including the Singing Assembly ensemble)
- a school ensemble, band or group (Steel Band, Samba Band, Ukulele Orchestra)
- space for rehearsals and individual practice (our Music Cabin)
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

One aspect of music teaching that the Music Lead has been focusing on this academic year has been the assessment side of the weekly music lesson. Several different strategies have been trialled and the one that has now been chosen for starting in the Spring Term (and which now requires consolidation) is as follows: on our school's Sharepoint, there is a Music folder containing sub-folders. Each class has a folder for each Music lesson containing the Learning Objective (including flashback opportunities) and videos from the start and end of each lesson. Not only is progress then demonstrated over time, it is also evident over the course of a lesson. The

Principal, who oversees the Music Lead, is then able to access lesson objectives and assessments.

Another aspect of music teaching at our school is that lessons have been taught at times this academic year by non-specialist teacher but planned by the Music Lead. More teachers than just the specialist have a flair for teaching music, particularly singing; with the lead having additional Assistant Principal responsibilities, it has been an extremely good option to have class teachers teach music for half a term or a term. This has added a new dimension to the Music Lead's leadership of the subject with non-specialists; it has certainly been very rewarding and the assessment videos as above mean that the lead can easily access evidence of teaching and learning as well as pupil progress.

Further information (optional)

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.

Norfolk Music Hub emailed for their local music development plan link for here.