

Music development plan summary: Saffron Walden County High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2026
Name of the school music lead	Caroline Law
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Shaun Collins
Name of local music hub	Essex
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Saffron Hall Saffron Centre for Young Musicians

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

What we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

We deliver a rich music curriculum that goes beyond the requirements of the national curriculum. All children are given opportunities to sing and learn an instrument in lesson time as well as studying a rich curriculum covering the elements of music, different musical genres and music history. For further details of what is taught, please look at the curriculum information on our curriculum pages.

We offer Music at GCSE and A Level and Music Technology at A Level. In addition, we offer graded music exams in a wide range of instruments and in voice for all year groups. We are also experienced in supporting progression to the next stage in students' music education; we have supported students to achieve places at the leading conservatoires and to university music courses.

Part B: Extracurricular music

The extracurricular music offer in this school is exceptional.

We have a large and highly skilled team of peripatetic teachers who offer lessons in school. We can support with the cost of lessons as well as providing loan instruments.

We offer 18 different ensembles in this school, including our orchestra, a range of smaller ensembles such as Pure Sax and Senior Strings, as well as a wide range of larger choirs and bands. Attendance at these ensembles is free of charge.

Our Music Academy offers our students the chance to experience workshops and masterclasses as well as the opportunity to lead music education and is offered as an additional option for our Sixth Formers, with some opportunities also being made available to selected students in Lower School.

We also work closely with Saffron Hall to ensure all our students experience professional performances and have access to workshops and high-quality enrichment opportunities. This includes our celebrated annual residency for selected students in Year 9.

We are a partner school in the Saffron Centre for Young Musicians which offers high quality music provisions (with bursaries to support with costs).

Our students can also practice individually and in small groups, in our music practice rooms, which are available to book at break and lunchtimes.

Part C: Musical experiences

There is an abundance of musical events in this school.

We have 4 large concerts each year, and several smaller ones. Students also perform in reception and at celebration evening as well as in some key events in the local community.

Our school musicals see our students singing on stage and playing in the orchestra pit.

All students are taken to at least one professional concert while they are in school.

Students are also offered opportunities to attend workshops and hear musicians talking about their work and musical careers.

In the future

What the school is planning for subsequent years.

This school exceeds the expectations for music in schools. Music is at the heart of our school, and we have a dedicated and highly skilled team of teachers.

We would like to continue to deliver at the same level in the future, despite funding pressures and will work closely with Saffron Hall and Essex Music Hub to ensure we are able to do so.

We always look at emerging needs and seek to address these.