Music Development Plan Summary

Orchard Manor School (Special)

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	Sept 2026 – July 2027
Date this summary was published	Sept 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Flo Witcombe – Expressive Arts
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Jo Hill – Deputy Head
Name of local music hub	Devon and Torbay Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Charanga . Live Music Now

Part A: Music Curriculum

Orchard Manor School is a special school for pupils aged from 4 to 19 years.

We provide education and care for pupils with communication and interaction difficulties, Autistic spectrum conditions and a wide range of additional learning needs.

At Orchard Manor School we have refreshed our approach to grouping pupils to ensure that we are providing the right curriculum and resources to support the children to make progress, and to give each child the education and care that suits them best.







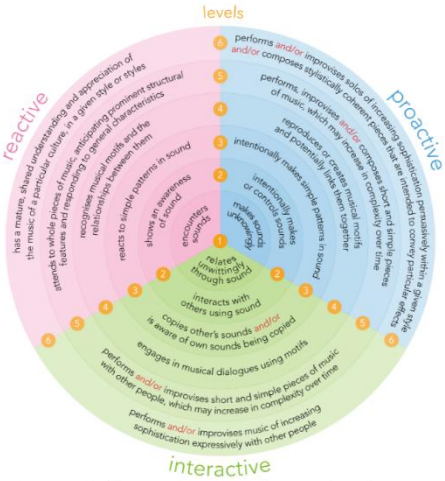
Pathways

Our Curriculum is structured into Pathways to ensure that pupils receive an ambitious and well sequenced Curriculum that is tailored to their needs. Pupils maybe in mixed year group classes within each Pathway.

These Pathways are based on each student's needs, independence, and communication style and students can move between them when they are developmentally ready.

Every child, no matter their pathway, is part of our inclusive community and receives a rich, personalised curriculum and Music is no exception.

At OMS we are developing our own bespoke Music Curriculum to meet the different needs of pupils within each Pathway. Under the umbrella of "Expressive Arts", Music is taught alongside Movement and Drama by either a specialist or class teachers. We use the Sounds of Intent Framework / Cherry Garden (Lower Site) and Scotland's Curriculum or Excellence (Upper Site) objectives to meet the individual needs of our learners. Each Pathway approaches the teaching of music in a slightly different way:



The Sounds of Intent Framework of Musical Development

Explore Pathway

Pupils in the Explore Pathway experience music as part of their daily routine. Music is used to support both receptive and expressive communication, helping pupils anticipate changes, manage transitions, and engage with the different purposes and atmospheres of activities throughout the day. It forms an important part of multi-sensory sessions such as Sensology, Bucket Time and Tac Pac. Some pupils also participate in class-led music activities that encourage creative exploration, choice-making and the development of personal preferences.

Discovery Pathway

Pupils in the Semi-Formal Pathway engage with Music and Expressive Arts most days, using approaches similar to those in the Explore Pathway where appropriate. They follow the *Sounds of Intent* framework through the programmes like **Count me in!** and **Sounds Right** programme and adapted *Charanga* SEND units to support accessible and engaging music learning.





Investigate Pathway

Pupils in the Formal Pathway have a weekly music lesson with their class teacher or specialist Expressive Arts teacher who uses the learning objectives from ScfE and Charanga, which is aligned to the National Curriculum for Music.

We offer our Investigate pupils a wide range of opportunities to engage in musical activities each year, whether this be developing singing & instrumental skills, using Music Tech in Creative Media projects or being involved in Musical Theatre Productions.





Part B: Co-curricular Music

At Orchard Manor we are passionate about every child receiving a high-quality musical education across all year groups. We want our children leaving school feeling empowered to embrace musical experiences and inspired to have their own musical opinions and ideas about different genres.

We want them to feel happy and confident with music as a subject and skilled enough to partake in musical clubs, classroom activities, improvisations, cross-curricular learning and to have a good understanding of what they love and enjoy musically.

Pupils in all Pathways have opportunities to experience a range of classroom based tuned and untuned percussion instruments. Our older students access tuned percussion programmes using Glockenspiels, Boomwhackers, Handbells & Keyboard, to name a few. We also take full advantage of the Devon Music Hub's Instrument Hire service for things such as class sets of Guitars / Ukuleles and their wonderful Mini Samba Kit. These students learn to compose, notate and appraise music and are developing their skills in the application of music technology.

Our pupils also make progress in music outside of lesson time, through a variety of clubs offered on both sites. Our choir goes from strength to strength with both children and staff eager to perform at key times throughout the year. We have welcomed a range of visiting musicians to deliver extra-curricular workshops such as Guitar, Beat Boxing, Samba and Hand Pan.





In the wider community music is a way of bringing people together. Through events, such as School Productions, Christmas celebrations, visiting musicians through the Live Music Now initiative and a variety of workshops funded by charities such as The Helen Foundation and the La Motte Trust.

The benefits to all involved are significant. The events themselves support people's wellbeing and mental health. They also provide opportunities to meet others, make friends and support a sense of belonging and purpose.

Part C: Musical Experiences

Orchard Manor School has a colourful, inclusive enrichment programme, much of the which include a musical element.

We have termly live music experiences provided through Live Music Now initiative as well as regular events on the school's social calendar such as the Summer Fete, Christmas Cabaret and The Mix Summer Festival

The school has a well-established partnership with Paddleboat Theatre Company, who have engaged many of our pupils in various projects over the years and are a company our younger children enjoy watching each Christmas at The Northcott Theatre in Exeter.





Our older students enjoy The Mix each summer – a festival organised by Devon Music Hub and experience a Musical Theatre production as part of the annual London Trip. We also take full advantage of funding from local Arts charity The Helen Foundation who provide opportunities for a range of music experiences across all Key Stages.

Part D: In the future

Over the next year or so we aim to:

- Continue to develop our vision for music and the Expressive Arts as part of our wider work on establishing our Curriculum Pathways.
- Find more ways to fund and work with musicians in our local community, increasing events both in and outside of school.
- Develop a more bespoke Music Curriculum, which is meaningful and relevant to our pupils, particularly those with more complex needs
- Provide staff training for online resources such as Count Me in and Charanga
- Continue to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to take part in creative musical projects, developing self-confidence, relationships and supporting mental health.



