

Music Development Plan 2026/2027

ST IVO ACADEMY



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/2027
Date this summary was published	01.09.2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	N.A.
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Petra Palmer
Name of local music hub	Cambridgeshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N.A.

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.

Music Curriculum, Qualifications and Progression

St Ivo Academy Music Department is committed to providing a broad, ambitious and inclusive music education for all students. Our curriculum is informed by the National Curriculum for Music and the principles of the Model Music Curriculum, ensuring that all students develop as performers, composers and informed listeners through a diverse range of musical traditions, styles and culture.

Curriculum Music Provision

Music is taught to all students throughout Key Stage 3.

- **Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9):** 1 lesson per week throughout the academic year.
- **Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11):** OCR GCSE Music, 5 lessons per fortnight.
- **Key Stage 5 (Years 12–13):** Eduqas A Level Music.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is designed as a carefully sequenced learning journey that develops musical knowledge, understanding and practical skills through performing, composing and listening. Students experience music from a wide range of historical periods, cultures and traditions including:

- Keyboard skills and music literacy
- Orchestral instruments
- Folk music
- African music
- Chinese music
- Indian music
- Samba
- Caribbean music
- Jazz and Blues
- Film music and soundtracks
- Musical theatre
- Computer game music
- Popular music and song writing
- Contemporary music genres and Minimalism.

Throughout Key Stage 3, students learn to sing, perform on classroom instruments, compose individually and collaboratively, develop music technology skills and build musical literacy through staff notation, lead sheets, rhythmic notation and listening activities.

Instrumental and Vocal Learning

All students have regular opportunities to perform during curriculum lessons using a wide range of instruments, including keyboards, guitars, ukuleles, samba percussion, African drums, steel pans and classroom percussion.

In addition to classroom learning, instrumental and vocal tuition is available through our partnership with **Cambridgeshire Music**. Students can access individual or small-group tuition on a wide range of instruments and voice. Peripatetic teachers support students through graded music examinations and progression pathways.

Inclusion, SEND and Accessibility

Music at St Ivo Academy is fully inclusive and accessible to all students.

We support students with SEND through:

- Adapted and scaffolded resources.
- Flexible approaches to notation and recording musical ideas.
- Practical, aural and visual learning opportunities.
- Differentiated performance and composition tasks.
- Carefully structured ensemble work.
- Assistive technology where appropriate.
- Opportunities for students to demonstrate musical understanding through multiple formats.

Students with physical disabilities are supported through adapted instruments, technology-assisted music making and alternative methods of participation where required. The department

works closely with SEND staff to ensure all students can access a high-quality music education and participate fully in musical activities.

For further information regarding SEND provision, please refer to the school's SEND Information Report.

Curriculum link:

<https://cdn.realsmart.co.uk/astreastivo/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Music-Curriculum.pdf>

SEND Information Report:

<https://cdn.realsmart.co.uk/astreastivo/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/29132039/SEND-Information-Report-Sept-25.pdf>

Assessment and Progression

Student progress is assessed through performing, composing, listening and musical understanding. At Key Stage 3, assessment follows a progression framework from:

- Emerging
- Developing
- Securing
- Mastering
- Excelling

This framework allows students to develop increasing musical confidence, technical control, creativity, analytical skills and understanding of musical contexts.

Qualifications and Awards

Students can work towards the following qualifications and awards:

Key Stage 4

- **OCR GCSE Music**
 - Performing (30%)
 - Composing (30%)
 - Listening and Appraising (40%)

Key Stage 5

- **Eduqas A Level Music**

Additional Qualifications and Awards

From September 2026, students will be able to complete:

- Arts Award Bronze
- Arts Award Silver
- Arts Award Gold

Students may also enter graded music examinations through Cambridgeshire Music and associated examination boards.

Enrichment and Co-Curricular Music

All students are encouraged to participate in the department's extensive extra-curricular programme. Opportunities include:

- Guitar Ensemble
- St Ivo Plays (full instrumental ensemble from January 2027 – launch via a parental survey)
- St Ivo Sings (choir)
- Keyboard Club
- Theory Club
- Listening Lounge
- Sibelius Workshop (GCSE Music students)

The department is keen to develop opportunities for students to perform in concerts, and school events, developing confidence, teamwork, leadership and musical excellence.

Partnerships

St Ivo Academy works closely with **Cambridgeshire Music** to support instrumental teaching, progression routes, performance opportunities and graded examination pathways.

Facilities and Resources

The Music Department benefits from outstanding specialist facilities including:

- Three dedicated music classrooms.
- Four individual practice rooms.
- Class sets of keyboards, guitars and ukuleles.
- World percussion resources including samba instruments, African drums and steel pans.
- Music technology facilities with computers and Sibelius notation software.

These resources enable students to access a broad and practical music curriculum from Year 7 through to A Level study.

Part B: Co-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.

St Ivo Academy is committed to providing a rich, inclusive and ambitious co-curricular music programme that enables all students to develop their musical interests beyond the classroom. Through instrumental and vocal tuition, ensembles, clubs, performance opportunities and accredited pathways, students are encouraged to engage with music as performers, creators and lifelong participants.

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

Students can access individual instrumental and vocal tuition through our partnership with **Cambridgeshire Music**, delivered by specialist peripatetic teachers. Tuition is available on a wide

variety of instruments and voice, including woodwind, brass, strings, guitar, bass guitar, piano, keyboard, percussion and singing. Students may also request tuition on other instruments where specialist provision is available.

Parents arrange lessons directly through Cambridgeshire Music, with lessons taking place during the school day on a rotating timetable to minimise disruption to curriculum learning. Students are encouraged to practise regularly between lessons and to participate in ensembles and performances to support their musical development.

Information regarding current tuition charges, subsidies, remissions and financial support is available directly from Cambridgeshire Music. Families eligible for financial assistance should consult Cambridgeshire Music for the most up-to-date information regarding concessions and support schemes.

Musical Ensembles and Clubs

The Music Department offers a wide range of free enrichment opportunities designed to cater for musicians of all abilities and experience levels. No previous musical experience is required, and all students are welcome to participate.

Current opportunities include:

Guitar Ensemble

Open to students who play guitar, bass guitar or ukulele, providing opportunities for ensemble performance and development of instrumental skills.

St Ivo Plays

A new instrumental ensemble launching in January 2027 open to students from all year groups and instrumental backgrounds. Instruments represented include:

- Flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, recorder and saxophone
- Trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, baritone, cornet and tuba
- Violin, viola, cello and double bass
- Piano and keyboard
- Drum kit and percussion instruments

This ensemble will give students regular opportunities to rehearse and perform as part of a larger musical group.

St Ivo Sings

An inclusive vocal group open to all students regardless of previous singing experience, promoting healthy singing, confidence and ensemble performance.

Keyboard Club

Provides students with additional opportunities to develop keyboard skills independently and explore personal repertoire.

Theory Club

Supports students who wish to develop their understanding of music theory, including preparation for graded theory examinations and advanced musical study.

Sibelius Workshop

Designed to support GCSE Music students in developing composition, notation and music technology skills through Sibelius software.

Listening Lounge

A relaxed and inclusive music space where students can listen to music, complete work and engage with wider musical culture.

Progression Beyond the Classroom

Students are encouraged to engage with a broad range of musical experiences outside lesson time to support progression and personal development. These opportunities include:

- Individual instrumental and vocal lessons.
- Ensemble rehearsals and performances.
- Participation in concerts, showcases and school events.
- Preparation for graded music examinations.
- Development of composition and music technology skills through specialist workshops.
- Leadership opportunities within ensembles and performances.

The department actively promotes independent practice and musical exploration. Students may access practice facilities before, during and after the school day where available and under staff supervision. The department benefits from three specialist teaching rooms and four dedicated practice rooms, providing excellent opportunities for rehearsal and individual musical development.

Qualifications and Awards

Students can work towards a range of recognised musical qualifications and awards beyond the curriculum.

These include:

- Graded instrumental and vocal examinations through Cambridgeshire Music and associated examination boards.
- OCR GCSE Music.

- Eduqas A Level Music.
- Arts Award Bronze (from September 2026).
- Arts Award Silver (from September 2026).
- Arts Award Gold (from September 2026).

These pathways allow students to develop practical, creative, leadership and organisational skills while receiving formal recognition for their achievements.

Partnerships

St Ivo Academy works closely with **Cambridgeshire Music**, which provides specialist instrumental and vocal teaching, supports students entering graded examinations and helps students access wider musical opportunities within the county.

The Music Department also maintains a strong culture of participation, encouraging all students to engage with musical activities regardless of prior experience. Through this partnership and the school's extensive programme of clubs and ensembles, students are able to progress from classroom music-making to instrumental study, ensemble performance, accredited qualifications and leadership opportunities.

Access and Inclusion

All music clubs and ensembles are open to students of all backgrounds and abilities. Students do not need to be receiving instrumental tuition or studying GCSE or A Level Music to participate in the majority of enrichment opportunities. The department actively encourages participation from beginners, disadvantaged students and those with SEND, ensuring that music remains accessible, welcoming and inclusive for all learners.

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.

St Ivo Academy is entering an exciting new phase of development for music. As part of a wider programme of growth and reorganisation for 2026–2027, the Music Department is expanding opportunities for students to experience live music, perform regularly, engage with professional musicians and develop a lifelong appreciation of music beyond the classroom. Building upon the introduction of new clubs, ensembles and progression routes, we are committed to creating a vibrant musical culture across the whole school.

As the Music Department begins an exciting period of redevelopment and growth, performance opportunities are being expanded progressively across the academic year. At present, opportunities include:

- GCSE Music performance showcases, where students share solo and ensemble work developed as part of their examination course.

- Student performances within school assemblies and special events where appropriate.
- Informal performances arising from curriculum and co-curricular activities.
- Musical contributions linked to whole-school events and celebrations.

Alongside these established opportunities, the department is working to develop a broader programme of concerts, showcases and ensemble performances as new clubs and ensembles become established during 2026–2027. This includes creating more opportunities for students from all year groups to perform both as soloists and as members of ensembles, helping to build confidence, musicianship and a strong musical culture across the school

Remembrance and Community Music-Making

The Music Department is developing stronger links with local music organisations and community groups. For 2026–2027, we are planning for musical contributions to the school's Remembrance commemorations, including support from the **Salvation Army Peterborough Band**, helping students experience high-quality live ensemble music within a meaningful community context.

These opportunities will enable students not only to perform but also to engage as informed audience members and develop an appreciation of community music traditions.

Professional Musician Visits

As part of our commitment to broadening students' musical experiences, we are planning a programme of visiting musicians and professional performers.

Current plans include:

- A live performance and educational visit from the **RAF Band**.
- Workshops and demonstrations from visiting musicians where available.
- Performance talks and question-and-answer sessions exploring professional music careers.
- Opportunities for students to observe rehearsals and engage directly with professional performers.

These experiences will help students understand the breadth of opportunities available within the music profession and develop awareness of pathways into the creative industries.

World Music Day

Building on the department's diverse curriculum, we are planning to celebrate **World Music Day** through assemblies, performances and interactive musical activities.

These events will celebrate the wide range of musical cultures explored across the curriculum, including African music, Indian music, Chinese music, Caribbean music, Samba, folk traditions and western musical styles. Students will have opportunities to participate, perform, listen and learn about musical traditions from around the world.

Activities Week and Musical Experiences

The department is exploring opportunities to expand musical provision during Activities Week (STAR Week), including the possibility to introduce a **"Musical in a Day"** workshop experience.

This would allow students to:

- Rehearse and perform extracts from a musical within a single day.
- Develop singing, acting and performance skills.

- Work collaboratively in a creative environment.
- Experience aspects of musical theatre production.

The department will continue to explore additional workshop opportunities as part of the school's wider enrichment programme.

Concert Visits and Cultural Experiences

We recognise the importance of exposing students to high-quality live music beyond the school environment.

The Music Department is therefore exploring opportunities to:

- Visit local concerts and performances.
- Attend professional ensemble and orchestral performances.
- Experience musical theatre productions.
- Engage with local arts organisations and music venues.
- Participate in educational concerts where available.

Students may attend as audience members, while selected opportunities may incorporate participation through workshops and collaborative projects.

Careers Education in Music

To support students' understanding of progression pathways, the department is exploring the introduction of music-related careers events including:

- Visiting speakers from the music industry.
- Talks from professional performers and composers.
- Sessions exploring careers in music technology, teaching, arts management and the wider creative industries.
- Information linked to GCSE Music, A Level Music, Arts Award and graded music pathways.

These experiences will help students understand the diverse range of opportunities available within the music sector and creative economy.

Rehearsal and Independent Practice

A key area of development for 2026–2027 is increasing opportunities for independent musical practice.

Students will have access to:

- Four dedicated practice rooms.
- Three specialist music classrooms.
- Instrumental and vocal rehearsal opportunities through clubs and ensembles.
- A proposed booking system allowing students to reserve practice room spaces for independent rehearsal and preparation.

This development will further strengthen students' ability to progress as independent musicians and prepare for performances, examinations and qualifications.

Partnerships

The Music Department continues to work closely with **Cambridgeshire Music** and is seeking to develop further partnerships with professional musicians, military ensembles, community organisations and arts providers to enhance musical experiences for all students.

These partnerships support our vision of creating a thriving musical community where students can experience music as performers, composers, listeners and future creators.

Inclusion and Access

We are committed to ensuring that musical experiences are accessible to all students.

Where possible:

- School-based musical events will be free to access.
- Students from all year groups will be encouraged to participate.
- Financial support and subsidy opportunities will be explored for external visits where appropriate.
- Opportunities will be adapted to ensure students with SEND can participate fully.

As the department continues to grow and develop, our aim is that every student at St Ivo Academy will have the opportunity to perform, create, experience and enjoy music throughout their school journey.

Further information for the future

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

As we begin this exciting new chapter for music at St Ivo Academy, we do so with energy, ambition and a clear sense of purpose. We recognise that music is far more than a subject; it is a powerful vehicle for transforming lives. Music has the ability to break down barriers, disrupt disadvantage, raise aspirations and provide opportunities that many young people may never otherwise experience. It nurtures confidence, creativity, resilience and self-belief, while creating a strong sense of belonging that can have a profoundly positive impact on wellbeing, engagement and attendance. We want every student, regardless of background, ability or prior experience, to know that there is a place for them within our musical community. Whether discovering a hidden talent, finding lifelong friendships through ensemble participation, developing leadership skills, or simply enjoying a safe and welcoming space where they can be themselves, every student deserves access to the life-changing benefits of music. We are at the start of our journey, but we are incredibly optimistic about the future. Through growing partnerships, expanding opportunities and a commitment to inclusivity and excellence, we are determined to build a thriving musical culture where every young person can flourish, achieve and experience the joy of music-making.