

Music development plan summary: City Of Norwich School

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	November 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Anna Reddington
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ms Skarin
Name of local music hub	Norfolk and Suffolk music hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Guildhall School Music and Drama

Curriculum music

Music is timetabled for key stage 3 for two hours per fortnight, KS4 five hours per fortnight and KS5 twelve hours per fortnight.

Students also have the option of taking up **an instrumental/vocal lesson** with one of our peripatetic instrumental teachers. The lessons are subsidised for pupil premium, Music Scholars, GCSE and A level musicians.

The music curriculum is informed by the **model music curriculum** giving all students the opportunity to perform, compose and analyse music. Students engage with music from the western classical tradition through to pop and 20th century music, studying a range of composers through a wide repertoire. Students develop a range of music skills, including composition, performance, listening and appraising through music from British and other cultures. Through this, students are given opportunities to develop skills using keyboards, voices, tuned and untuned percussion, ukuleles and guitars. The study of a range of genres and musical styles enhances cultural capital as well as making links to music which is more familiar to them.

We aim to provide students with the vocabulary needed to discuss music drawing attention to how music is part of everyone's day to day life, from the background in videos on TikTok and Youtube to music in TV and films. The curriculum suits students of all abilities and needs and can be adapted to suit those who require more support physically or who suffer with performance confidence. Our co-curricular programme offers students opportunities to develop what they experience in lessons and a programme of visiting artists providing at least three live music experiences every year.

The curriculum explores the key trends of the National Curriculum with focus on the development of musical skills; timing, use of rhythm, use of melody, instrumental

technique and analytical language. Students explore a range of genres and 'great composers and musicians'. We explore musical styles from the 20th century in depth (serialism and minimalism) which also allows students to answer the question 'What is music?'. Our curriculum relies heavily on acoustic music making as this is the remit of our facilities. We do not cover music technology at KS3 but continue to explore ways to implement this in the future. For CNS, the most important aspect of the National Curriculum is the access to instruments and the skill of performing and composing. This allows students to develop musical literacy as well as the transferable skills.

Through rehearsal planning and self-evaluation tasks students develop the reflective mind set required to be a professional musician. This is also fitting the journey from KS2-4 as it feeds into our GCSE course. Careers in music are explored in this way, particularly through ensemble and band work and the use of composition briefs.

Facilities and resources

The Fisher Centre is a specialist performing arts building with many practical teaching spaces, including a music technology classroom. We have 5 practice rooms and 19 PCs with access to Musescore and Bandlab. We have 2 specialist music teaching rooms which has access to a variety of musical instruments including keyboards, ukuleles, acoustic and electric guitars, 4 drumkits, percussion, samba kit, boomwhackers, class pianos both electric and acoustic. We have a performing arts auditorium with raked seating for concerts and performances including baby grand piano.

Courses Offered

At **KS4** students study the Edexcel GCSE Course. We currently have 39 KS4 students studying GCSE Music.

At **KS5** students study the Edexcel A-Level Course. We currently have 8 KS5 students studying A-Level Music. Groups are small which allows personalised teaching. Previous cohorts have gained excellent results 100% A* - C and 55% A*-A with students gaining places at conservatoires and taking further study of music at universities.

Partnerships

At CNS we have a partnership with Guildhall School of Music and Drama. This partnership provides a variety of opportunities to all students including workshops with Guildhall School students in the form of masterclasses and sit ins. Whole year groups benefit from

watching ensembles perform which include specific links to aspects of curriculum learnt already or planned for.

In addition, we also have a partnership with Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub, for which we are a lead school of Music for the Norwich area. They providing us with a large number of opportunities every year. Recently these have included: Benedetti String day, Norfolk Show performance opportunities, Industry taster days, Festivities at the Forum to name a few. Including free CPD for Music teaching staff.

Co-curricular music

Instrumental Lessons

CNS offers instrumental tuition on all brass, woodwind, string and percussion instruments, including vocal, piano and guitar lessons. This can be group tuition however all students currently on role choose 1:1 tuition. Students are offered 20, 30, or 40 minute lessons, allowing for GCSE and A level students to study at greater depth. This tuition is provided for the most part by Norfolk and Suffolk Music service, with the addition of one private singing teacher. Several of our ensembles are also staffed by the Music Service.

Co-curricular offering

Students have the opportunity to join one of the **13 ensembles** on offer at CNS. Production club, clarinet choir, flute choir, brass quintet, brass ensemble, string ensemble, jazz band, guitar group, choir (65+ students), groove band, band club and a full school orchestra of over 60 students.

All students are welcome to attend our co-curricular clubs, and these are provided during form times, lunchtime or afterschool sessions.

All students in year 7 have 6 weeks of singing lessons in class time and prepare and rehearse for a singing competition in which all classes perform a piece to the rest of the year group in a full year 7 concert.

Alternate years we also stage a full **musical production** for which we have a large student band. Last year we put on Shrek the Musical and this year is We Will Rock You. Alternating with this are Music tours. Two years we took 36 students to Italy for a week residential performing in 4 concerts, this year we are taking 32 to Barcelona.

Students have access to the music practice rooms during lunch and afterschool, this is monitored and overseen by our music scholars who take turns in supervising and managing our music spaces alongside our music teachers.

Instruments are free to hire when having individual lessons at CNS and students are loaned keyboards or guitars when requested for further music making during holidays.

All students at CNS have access to a subsidised place at the Guildhall Young Artists on a Saturday morning at CNS.

Musical experiences

CNS hold **concerts** in the Autumn and Summer term showcasing the ensembles from co-curricular. This is held in the school auditorium, and we ask for voluntary contributions, with monies raised going back to the department to fund buying music and instruments. A performing arts concert '**Christmas Showcase**' takes place every December, with music, drama and dance represented. **Singing competition** with all students in year 7 takes place at the end of the Autumn term and provides a performance opportunity for all.

Sixth form **chamber concert** takes place in the Spring second term as a way of offering solo performance opportunities and a **Music Scholar Afternoon tea** chamber concert takes place in January.

CNS Fest is a summer event on the school field with stages and a festival/fete feel, many CNS ensemble and groups participate and perform.

We have additional performance opportunities each year on top of these core events. This year we are performing twice at the **Festivities at the Forum** in Norwich to the general public, brass ensemble are providing the music for the Norfolk County Hall **Carol Service** in December.

We also participate in the **Norfolk Music Festival** which takes place every March in Norwich with nearly all of our ensembles participating in this competition/event, which has multiple evenings of concerts alongside other schools and community groups.

In the past we have performed at the **Norfolk Show** and intend to do so in future.

CNS Music department provides **outreach** to our local primary feeders where students form small ensembles and perform to the children demonstrating and talking about what it is like to play an instrument.

Sixth formers last year provided **workshops** on boomwhackers and voices with two feeder primaries encouraging music performance and engagement.

In January Guildhall provide us with free tickets to watch the LSSO perform at the **Barbican in London**, this is an opportunity for music scholars and also those who attend co-curricular music groups.

All students in year 7-9 have the opportunity of at least one live performance from the **Guildhall musicians** in the form of a formal concert. Students also hear musicians perform in assemblies, open evenings and events around the school, with older students often demonstrating live on instruments in class to lower year groups.

This year we are also offering a trip to watch *Wicked 2* at the **cinema**, last year we took students to **London** to see *Hamilton*, we always take up opportunities that are offered to us.

We have **industry taster days** on offer to GCSE and A level musicians exploring the pathways available post 18 and beyond in the Autumn term as well as an A level taster day.

This year we are holding a **production of We Will Rock You** for which we will have a large student band.

All years groups participate in CNS ensembles with our KS4 and 5 students acting as young leaders and even conducting and running rehearsals and sectionals.

In the future

The leadership in music changed in June 2024 and we are finalising the order of units being delivered in KS3 Music curriculum. These are reviewed on a yearly basis.

We aspire to offer ICT provision to all KS3 students. An ideal solution to the problems with access to ICT would be a trolley of 30 laptops for each classroom to allow DAW composition at KS3.

KS4 access to Cubase or other high level DAW software is also an aim to bring music teaching at CNS in line with real world music making.

Further information

For further information about the music scholarship pathway at CNS

[City of Norwich School - Music Scholarships](#)

Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub

[Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub](#)

Guildhall Young Artists

[Guildhall Young Artists Norwich | Guildhall School of Music & Drama](#)

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.