Music development plan summary:
MARSHLAND HIGH SCHOOL,
SCHOOL ROAD, WEST WALTON, NORFOLK. PE14 7HA

Marshland
HIGH SCHOOL

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 1st 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 31st 2027
Head of Music	Stephen Barrett
Other Music Teaching Staff	Kevin Bell
West Norfolk Academies Trust Director of Music	Robin Norman
Name of local music hub	Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub *(https://www.nmhub.co.uk/site/)*

This document 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. It also gives our vision for our students' musical education. 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.

Our Vision for Music Education

Music is fundamental to being a human-being. It incorporates expression and creativity whilst developing key life skills such as teamwork and cooperation and, at Marshland High School, the subject is one that is valued and embraced for student development, both academically, culturally and socially (The 'Whole Child').

Music is commonly described as "The universal language" and this is because it is central to almost all cultures and religions throughout the world. Music is all around us, not just on the radio, in the concert halls and at festivals but also in all television and films, adverts and even as background music within shops and restaurants. It is literally everywhere!

However, Music in education is about so much more than Rock, Pop, Classical RAP etc. Music is about sounds and how they are put together.

Music is one of the most vibrant departments at Marshland. It is very rare not to hear music being rehearsed and performed before and after school as well at break and lunch throughout the department area. In classroom lessons, it is about exploring all the types of Music, learning to appreciate how they are created and performed as well as experimenting through practical exercises both on instruments and using Technology. In line with the National Curriculum all our units of work fall into one or more of the following categories: -

- Performing
- Composing
- Listening and Appraising

Singing and Listening Exercises are an integral part of lessons at Key Stage 3 developing both musical and confidence skills.

Away from the classroom Marshland provides an instrumental and singing programme that is second to none with a range of lessons, schemes and subsidies available to our students to start their journey as musicians. We then promote a culture of group playing with a range of instrumental and vocal ensembles within school, across the trust and in the wider community. This gives clear progression routes for all our students to explore, and improve their musicianship skills, whether they wish to follow music as a career, or simply want to enjoy it as a hobby.

Music is a unique subject in that it is scientifically proven to assist in so many areas including improved Wellbeing, Language Abilities, Emotional Resilience and Empathy. It involves working both independently and collaboratively in groups and this helps develop important life-skills that are transferred into all future careers and pathways. These develop a growth mind-set as well as social skills and self-esteem.

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.

At Marshland all students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) are given the equivalent of one hour tuition per week. To give them the best start in their musical journeys the curriculum is fully sequenced to give a broad range of musical skills. Singing is key to what we do at this stage with a proportion of every lesson given over to the development of singing for all students. However, alongside this, the students experience instrumental learning on keyboards, ukuleles and percussion as well as a full range of music technology options through a range of mediums including staff notation and chord charts etc.

Formal composition is also an important area using both staff notation and improvisation; an area being developed at the present time to increase our students knowledge and experiences in this important area in advance of more formal KS4 and KS5 options.

Our provision for SEND students is one we consistently monitor and improve. We have access to adapted musical technology within the Trust including 2 x Arcana Strum and 4x Oddball through assistance from the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub and all our music staff work tirelessly to enable all students access to achieving within their music lessons. Full details of our schpol policies on SEND inclusion is available online at *School SEND Policies*

Our full Key Stage 3 Curriculum Journey is available online at *KS3 Music Journey*

Beyond Key Stage 3 Marshland offers progression into Key Stage 4 as follows with further opportunities through our Trust Sixth Form Centre at Springwood High School:

- GCSE – Eduqas
  (*https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse*)
- A level Music – Eduqas *(Available at our Trust Sixth Form Centre, Springwood High)*
  (*https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-as-a-level*)
- A level Music Technology – Edexcel *(Available at our Trust Sixth Form Centre, Springwood High)*
  (*https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-technology-2017.html*)

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.

To supplement our curriculum lessons we also offer a number of instrumental and singing lessons in school through a large, and highly experienced, team of visiting peripatetic tutors. We offer lessons on all orchestral, and non-orchestral instruments as well as singing. Instruments can usually be provided in Key Stage 3 with no charge and the costs of lessons in Key Stage 3 are reduced through school subsidies or scholarships upon entry in Year 7 whilst, at Key Stages 4 and 5 there are larger subsidies available for those choosing GCSE or A-Level Music. Finances should not be a barrier to learning as we do offer additional support for those that are eligible through our 'Learner Support Fund'. A full breakdown of costs, subsidies and Scholarships is available on request.

These instrumental lessons can lead to Examinations through the Associated Board (ABRSM) or Trinity, both of which take place at the school, or RSL which are held externally.

Students are welcome, and encouraged, to become involved in the wider musical life of the school through our Extra-curricular offering. These currently include:

- Transition/Beginner Ensemble
- School Choir
- Ukulele Ensemble
- Musical Theatre Productions
- Student-led Rock Bands
- Podcast Club

A full list of our extra-curricular music groups is available on request.

Many of these groups are invited to perform outside of school; indeed, in recent years, Marshland students have performed at venues around the Wisbech area.

Beyond our school groups partnerships with the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub, West Norfolk Jubilee Youth Orchestra and the West Norfolk Music Centre, amongst others, provide additional opportunities for our students to experience the joy of music-making with friends.

We encourage our students to practise outside of lessons and, to facilitate that, our music rooms are made available before and after school as well as at break and lunch when they are not used for other lessons or rehearsals.

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.

Marshland has a regular series of concerts and recitals above what would normally be expected from a Secondary School, such is the depth of our current provision. For all school and trust-organised events the ticket prices are kept low to make them accessible for all parents and local community to be able to attend and share in our students love of music. Tickets can be purchased in advance via our School Box Office at finance@marshlandhigh.co.uk . In addition all of Key Stage 3 students undertake regular singing as part of their Key Stage 3 lessons, this year it is planned to expand this further with whole year group singing in assemblies at at other appropriate times.

Alongside school and trust events students from Marshland are engaged in community. We also provide workshops, masterclasses and audience opportunities in school with professionals where possible through the Trust working relationship with the Kings Lynn Festival and also with our own music alumni, many of which have gone on to successful careers in the West End, or Bands and Orchestras. Each of these give performance experiences outside of the school environment and enhance the musical learning of our students.

As a partner for the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub our students also have access to a range of opportunities including county ensembles, longer-term education projects and musical resources.

Away from active music participation our students enjoy frequent opportunities to experience live music as audience members. This year this will include performances by our own students within the school as well as trips to professional performances both in the local area and, on occasion, further afield including London. The nearby Kings Lynn Festival and Norfolk Symphony Orchestra also provide cut-price tickets for our students so that they can experience high quality music-making within the local area.

In the future

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

Despite providing an excellent level of music provision we are constantly striving to improve for our students. In the coming academic year our main foci for this will be:

- Improve the transition from Year 6 in primary to Year 7, liaising with our feeder primaries to support the children and make them ready for music at secondary school.
- Enhance our singing provision with additional singing opportunities for all including year groups in assemblies, other vocal groups and a school choir in all schools.
- Improve inclusion provision for students with SEND requirements including opportunities within existing ensembles and also revised guidance for Neuro-diverse student following the Trust Director of Music consultation with Dr. Phil Mullen, specialist advisor in Inclusion.
- To maintain viable student numbers who choose Music Courses at Key Stages 4 above the National Average and enhance further including promotion of progression to Key Stage 5.
- Increase our instrumental and singing tuition in primaries to introduce individual lessons where appropriate, and the percentage of students in secondaries to c.13% of the school community by September 2027 as part of our growth to 15% by September 2028. This includes the introduction of new subsidies and year 7 scholarships. Also transition ensembles to be active in all four secondary schools for primary and early secondary instrumentalists to encourage group playing.
- Build further relationships with the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub and other local community musical organisations including Classical Music Rocks, the Kings Lynn Festival, Festival Too, West Norfolk Music Centre, Norfolk Symphony Orchestra, West Norfolk Jubilee Youth Orchestra and Kings Lynn Town Band *(amongst others)*. These will give our students greater access to musical opportunities both as performers and audience members.

Useful Links

Useful Links to Marshland and West Norfolk Academies Trust Music Documents

- Key Stage 3 Curriculum Journey
- Marshland SEND Policies
- West Norfolk Academies Trust Music Development Summary

Useful External Links and Documents

- Department of Education guide for parents and young people on getting involved in music
- Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub
- King's Lynn Festival
- Steinberg Software *(Free copies of Cubase and Dorico available)*
- West Norfolk Music Centre *(opportunities to play together and for lessons)*
- Norfolk Music Hub Ensemble Opportunities *(a 'one-stop' guide to music in Norfolk)*
- Norfolk County Youth Orchestra *(the flagship youth orchestra for Norfolk, courses in April and October)*
- Peterborough Youth Orchestra *(open to Fenland and King's Lynn students, course in August and large-scale concert to film in December)*
- Norfolk Symphony Orchestra *(Norfolk's premier amateur orchestra – grades 7+)*
- West Norfolk Wind Orchestra *(Advanced Concert Band – Grade 5+)*
- West Norfolk Jubilee Youth Orchestra *(Youth Orchestra – Grade 3+)*
- King's Lynn Festival Chorus *(Advanced chorus singing large-scale works)*
- King's Lynn Town Band *(King's Lynn based Brass Band, open to all)*

If there is something you are specifically looking for for your child please ask, we may be able to help.