Music development plan summary:
Ursuline High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jason Ching
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Owen Nichols
Name of local music hub	Merton Music Foundation

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.

- Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9): One timetabled music lesson of 50 minutes per week throughout the academic year.
- Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11): Three timetabled music lessons of 50 minutes per week for students opting to study GCSE Music.
- Key Stage 5: Students wishing to study A Level Music attend Wimbledon College through the school's Sixth Form partnership.

Qualifications

- Eduqas GCSE Music at Key Stage 4.
- A Level Music at Key Stage 5, delivered at Wimbledon College through the joint Sixth Form provision.
- Opportunities for students undertaking instrumental or vocal tuition to pursue external graded music examinations where appropriate.

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.

Instrumental and vocal tuition

Students can access individual and small-group instrumental and vocal tuition delivered by specialist peripatetic music teachers, including tutors working through Merton Music Foundation (MMF) and self-employed tutors.

The current offer includes:

Voice

- Classical Singing
- Musical Theatre Singing
- Pop Singing

Instruments

- Flute
- Violin
- Acoustic and Electric Guitar
- Drum Kit
- Cello
- Piano
- Saxophone and other reed instruments.

Tuition provides opportunities for students to develop their technical ability, musical understanding, confidence and performance skills. Students are encouraged to work towards external graded examinations where appropriate.

Lessons are charged according to the provider and arrangement through which tuition is delivered. Fees therefore vary between MMF and self-employed tutors. The school does not currently operate a dedicated Pupil Premium subsidy for instrumental tuition.

Students can also take part in a range of music clubs:

- Y7 Choir (lunchtime)
- Y8 Choir (lunchtime)
- Y9-11 Choir (lunchtime)
- Open Mic Club (after-school)
- Ukulele Club (after-school)
- Orchestra (after-school)

The strength of the school choirs is demonstrated by the high number of students successfully auditioning to be members of National Youth Choir, as well as the oversubscribed annual Choir Tour (60 singers).

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.

Our annual programme provides students with regular opportunities to perform and share their musical achievements with the school community.

Term	Event	Opportunities for students
Aut A	Year 7 Showcase	Year 7 students showcase their musical learning and developing performance skills.
Aut B	Carol Service	Choirs, instrumentalists and soloists contribute to the school's Christmas celebrations.
Aut B	School Production	Students participate in musical theatre, developing performance and ensemble skills.
Spr B	Spring Concert	Students perform as soloists and members of vocal and instrumental ensembles.
Sum B	Summer Concert	An end-of-year celebration showcasing musical achievement across the school.

In addition to these events, students contribute to assemblies, liturgies and other school celebrations throughout the year.

In the future

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

Ursuline High School is committed to continuing to develop and strengthen its music provision, ensuring that all students have opportunities to participate, develop their musical skills and experience the wider benefits of music education.

Our priorities for future development include:

1. Developing an inclusive and ambitious curriculum

We will continue to review the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 curriculum to ensure that it provides a broad, balanced and ambitious musical education. Particular emphasis will be placed on developing practical musicianship, listening skills, musical literacy, composition and performance.

We will continue to develop inclusive approaches that support students with SEND and disadvantaged students to access high-quality musical experiences.

We will also consider opportunities to increase Key Stage 3 curriculum time towards the national expectation of one hour per week. The current school timetable operates on 50-minute periods, and any changes will need to be considered within wider curriculum and timetable arrangements.

2. Strengthening musical progression and achievement

We aim to improve progression from classroom music into instrumental and vocal tuition, ensembles and examination opportunities. Students will be encouraged to develop their musical skills beyond the classroom and pursue further musical qualifications where appropriate.

3. Expanding co-curricular opportunities

We will continue to develop the range of vocal, instrumental and ensemble opportunities available to students. We aim to encourage greater participation across all year groups and provide opportunities for students to take on musical leadership roles.

We will also continue to work with Merton Music Foundation to support the provision of specialist instrumental and vocal tuition.

4. Developing performance and enrichment opportunities

We will maintain our programme of regular musical performances, ensuring that students have opportunities to perform throughout the academic year. This includes the Year 7 Showcase, Carol Service, School Production, Spring Concert and Summer Concert.

We will continue to explore opportunities for international music tours, collaborative projects and external performances, broadening students' musical and cultural experiences.

5. Strengthening partnerships

We will continue to develop our partnership with Merton Music Foundation and explore further opportunities to work with other local and national music organisations. Our partnership with Wimbledon College will also provide progression opportunities for students wishing to study A Level Music.

Through these priorities, we aim to ensure that music remains an integral part of the school's identity and that every student has the opportunity to experience the enjoyment, creativity and personal development that music can offer.

Further information (optional)

Ursuline High School works in partnership with **Merton Music Foundation (MMF)**, a member of the London Southwest Music Hub, to support and develop music education opportunities for our students.

Through this partnership, students can access specialist instrumental and vocal tuition, opportunities to develop their musical skills and information about wider musical opportunities beyond school. MMF also provides access to instrument hire, music centres, ensembles and financial assistance for eligible young musicians.

Further information can be found through the following organisations and resources:

- Merton Music Foundation – instrumental and vocal tuition, ensembles, music centres and instrument hire.
- London Southwest Music Hub – regional music education opportunities and support.
- Department for Education: Music education – information for parents and young people – guidance on accessing music education in and beyond school.
- The National Plan for Music Education – the government's vision for music education in England.
- Model Music Curriculum – guidance for music teaching and progression through Key Stages 1–3.

Ursuline High School is part of **Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust**. Any future trust-wide developments in music education will be reflected in subsequent reviews of this plan.