

Music development plan summary: THE WILLOWS SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

Welcome to The Willows School Academy Trust's Music Development Plan page.

At The Willows, we are committed to nurturing every child's musical journey. Our approach is structured across three key areas: curriculum music, co-curricular provision, and enriching musical experiences.

Through our curriculum, we aim to develop a solid foundation in music theory and practice. Our co-curricular activities, including choir and recorder lessons, provide additional opportunities for students to explore their musical interests. We also collaborate with local musicians and organizations to offer unique musical experiences, such as workshops and performances.

Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce discrete weekly music lessons that will further enhance our pupils' musical skills and appreciation. This page outlines our current offerings and future plans, highlighting our commitment to providing a vibrant and inclusive music education for every child at The Willows.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	23/09/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Sam Ward
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sarah Jones
Name of local music hub	Hillingdon Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark

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.

At The Willows School Academy Trust, we have reviewed guidance from the Model Music Curriculum to further develop and enhance our approach to music education. We place a strong emphasis on listening and singing and we have devised a bespoke playlist, including children's preferences, that our children will explore and be exposed to throughout their time at school. Thus, ensuring that our pupils develop a broad understanding of music, fostering a lifelong love and appreciation for music.

Each class accesses a minimum of one hour of music weekly through whole school ensemble practice.

We are delighted that our commitment to music has been recognised by Music Mark Schools' programme.

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.

At The Willows School Academy Trust, we are committed to providing a rich and diverse musical education that extends beyond the core curriculum. Our co-curricular music programme is designed to offer our pupils opportunities to sing and play music, fostering a lifelong love for music and enable them to develop progress in their musical journey. It is also designed to complement and enhance the core curriculum. Through regular practice, performance opportunities and exposure to a variety of musical styles and instruments pupils can develop their skills and understanding of music.

Whole School Singing Assemblies

One of our cornerstones of the music curriculum is our whole school singing assemblies. The collective experience of singing together builds a sense of community and shared joy in music making.

Co-curricular Music

Our co-curricular music activities are designed to complement and enhance our singing assemblies. It offers opportunities for pupils to engage with music in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

School Choir

Our school choir is open to all pupils who wish to take part. The choir provides an opportunity to develop their vocal skills, learn to sing in harmony and learn to perform in front of live audiences. Notably, our school choir has participated and performed in a prestigious event such as Sing24! Giving our pupils the chance to experience the thrill of performing in a large venue and being part of a larger musical community. This performance not only enhanced their musical skills but also built confidence and teamwork. We were also fortunate to be selected to participate in Sing25! We enjoyed learning, singing and performing new songs.

Music Club

Music club brings an exciting dimension to our music provision. It delivers sessions where children can sing and play instruments such as drums, keyboards and electric guitars. The sessions are highly engaging and allow the pupils freedom to explore different genres of music. It keeps pupils motivated and interested.

Instrumental Learning Opportunities

We believe in the importance of instrumental learning. Pupils can start their musical journey by learning to play the recorder. Our pupils can select to learn to play Recorder during enrichment classes. This helps them develop basic music skills such as reading notation and playing in time.

Our pupils have the opportunity to learn to play steel pans, drums which gets our pupils actively engaged in African culture and black history. The children develop rhythm and techniques to play with both hands as well as social skills such as turn taking and sharing. Listening to others play develops communication skills

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.

At The Willows we are committed to developing a music curriculum that will provide a rich diet of experiences.

Attending live theatre shows each term, in school, is an integral part of our music provision. These not only entertain but educate our pupils about different forms of theatrical expression.

Our commitment to exposing our children to high quality musical performances extends beyond the school site. Our school choir took part as one of 13 schools who performed to a sell-out audience at the Beck Theatre as part of Sing24! We value our relationship with Hillingdon Music Service and welcomed their supportive visits to our school to

develop our choir and selecting our school to take part in such an uplifting worthwhile opportunity.

A key feature of our music curriculum is the school choir, children are taught essential vocal techniques, including warm ups, correct posture and breathing exercises to improve vocal quality. Consistent practice not only enhances their singing abilities but also but also instils discipline and confidence.

Hillingdon Music Service

We also offer performance opportunities for our pupils. Our choir participated in Sing24! Where they performed alongside hundreds of other children from Hillingdon mainstream schools which was a memorable and inspiring experience. Additionally, our school choir and recorder group take part in our annual Year 6 Leavers' Assembly providing a platform for our pupils to perform and express themselves.

School events

Each term we enjoy theatre shows such as Wind in the Willows, The Selfish Giant, Jungle Book and Cinderella. A number of pupils are able to take on acting roles and the audience participates in singing throughout.

During Black History Month (BHM) the children experience a wide range of music opportunities such as African drumming and steel drum workshops that enhance their learning and awareness of what is BHM and why we celebrate it.

As part of celebrations of Diwali all pupils take part in Diwali dance and music workshops each year. All of the above events are free of charge, provided by the school.

In conclusion, our music curriculum is designed to provide our pupils with a range of musical experiences; from taking part in live performances to participating in structured singing assemblies and school events such as BHM and theatre shows with musical opportunities.

In the future

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

At The Willows we are dedicated to continuously enhancing our music provision to ensure it provides enriching experiences for all our pupils. In the coming years we plan to implement several key improvements in curriculum music, co-curricular music, and musical experiences to further develop our pupils' musical abilities and appreciation for music.

IPC Music

The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) music units, non-statutory guidance for teaching music for Key Stages 1 and 2 will be used alongside The Model Music Curriculum to develop our pupils' musical knowledge and skills. This allows a purposeful way of teaching and learning, enabling us to provide a sequential and meaningful approach to experience music and make progress.

To ensure music is taught regularly and systematically across the school we plan to timetable discrete IPC music lessons. A planned, newly built, music hut will be the designated music space for lessons. We plan to employ a specialist music teacher to teach lessons for both KS1 and KS2 pupils in line with NC requirements and consideration of Model Music Curriculum guidance, IPC planning as well as support from The Hillingdon Music Service.

Rock Steady

We plan to deliver a band-based peripatetic programme, 'Rock Steady', that is accessible to all and contributes to our music provision. Children will be able to learn to play an instrument, choosing from electric guitars, keyboard, drums or vocals and enjoy playing as part of a band. Regular live termly performances will be an important feature of boosting confidence and musicianship.

Music Assessment

The music subject Coordinator will regularly review assessment data to pinpoint areas where pupils' potential gaps in learning need to be addressed.

Instruments

We will gradually introduce new instruments; this will broaden pupils musical experiences and skills as well as foster a greater appreciation for music.

Performances

We plan to increase musical performance opportunities by having termly performances such as a Christmas performance which brings the whole school community together. Similarly, we will hold a coffee and carols morning for parents – celebrating our pupils' musical abilities and strengthening community bonds. We hope to perform our Christmas carols to residents at a local residential care home.

We have made links with other schools through the Hillingdon Music Service CPD sessions and we hope to collaborate and create an opportunity for our schools to perform together.

Further information

To supplement our offer at school, 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.