

Music development plan summary: The Willows School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Emily Wilkinson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Emily Wilkinson
Name of local music hub	Rotherham

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 we have weekly timetabled lessons throughout Key Stage 2 and 3. Key Stage 4 and 5 have the potential to opt into terms of music and performing arts through our options programme, however this is through child's individual choice.

Due to the nature of needs, being an MLD school, we use Key Stage 1 and 2 elements of the Charanga music scheme using the Model Music Curriculum. Through use of their progressive week-by-week lessons, we are meeting all statutory requirements of the National Curriculum while adapting to meet the needs of learners. This is evident through subject observations, videos of progress over time and reflective statements. Children are demonstrating a growing awareness of vocabulary in music and this will develop over time. We use a wide range of instruments throughout school alongside weekly vocal opportunities. This enables children to take part in small ensemble time or whole class ensemble. Through our composer of the half term we share a variety of music and genres which develops music appreciation for our learners when listening and discussing together.

Alongside this further musical opportunities are supplemented into curriculum time with access to:

- Young Voices (Sheffield Arena)
- One Voice (Rotherham Music Service @ Magna)
- Nexus Choir (Collaborative across the trust)
- Whole class ukulele lessons (Rotherham Music Service)
- School based Performances (this is currently at Christmas and during the Summer term for Key Stage 2 and 3 and termly for Key Stage 4 and 5)

For the majority of our learners the Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum cover the elements of music our children need. However we use some strands of the Key Stage 3 guidance to extend this offer. Currently there are no graded music exams due to the anxiety and stress this puts on our learners. There are discussions with the local music service around if there are other options for our solo guitar students. We cover elements of AQA UAS units that support alongside teaching to allow learners in Key Stage 3 to get certificate skills in music. These are shown in the music Long Term Plan and Curriculum information.

Part B: Extra-curricular Music and Enrichment

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.

Rotherham Music service have come in and done small group ukulele sessions for Key Stage 3 (of no charge to parents/carers), duo guitar lessons and single peripatetic lessons for children throughout school (this is currently being trialled for our LAC learners through Virtual School funding – questionnaires are going out to parent/carers to ask for any other interest for small group lessons, with subsidised costing). Lessons take place in the radio room each week, a designated space to practice through the week. Learners have then performed for key staff but also in small audience performances in school. Their whole-class tuition provided high-quality music education that was adapted to meet the needs of our MLD learners.

We offer extracurricular music sessions that include, percussion focus boomwhackers and samba drums, singing and ensemble opportunities. This has always had a good uptake and has been given as core offer through staff in school. Some costs are covered through Pupil Premium, additional EHCP funding, LAC funding and paid through parents/carers. During the year lunchtime clubs have been available to take part in our school choir, this will resume in Spring 2025.

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 developing links with Rotherham music service and other organisations, to provide musical experiences beyond our core offer. We are going to our third Young Voices concert and take on average 60 children each year from Key Stage 2, 3 and 4. Likewise we are attending One Voice with Key Stage 2 children this will be an average of 40 children, however different to the Young Voices choir. For Nexus choir we took a range of our Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 children, on average 60 children to collaboratively sing with other MLD, PMLD and SLD children.

Our performances are well attended, and parent/carers are fully supportive of music making, there is no charge for school shows. Concerts out of school are also well attended, charges are set by event organisers. Lower School and Middle School collaborate on these (Key Stage 2 and 3) and then through Options (Key Stage 4 and 5) develop these further.

As a silver Arts Mark school, we pride ourselves in the creative opportunities our children receive weekly and beyond the core offer. Once a year we have a creative arts day where children access music, art, dance and drama opportunities. Last year this was held at Wentworth Woodhouse, with Backchat Brass coming to perform for the children but also holding musical workshops for all children. We engage with Live Music Now to get musicians into school to share live musical performances from a range of genres and showcasing a variety of instruments for all ages.

Children have shared performances in the wider community and sung Christmas carols at the local shops. This is something we have been invited back for yearly as part of our community links. Children have also been to sing at the nearby elderly residential home.

In the future

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

Moving forward Music will grow with our learners:

- We want to develop the success of events out of school by taking more children to these experiences but also supporting parent/carers to see their child in these events also. Termly performances are going to be developed for Key Stage 2 and 3 to include the Spring term.
- Further links between the creative subjects to relate to With Me in Mind support around positive mental health and well-being for learners and staff. A core school choir to be developed to ensure children across all key stages and staff

can come together to share musical opportunities with performances in school and the wider community.

- Curriculum opportunities in Key Stage 3 to be explored and developed through AQA UAS.
- Peripatetic lessons to be expanded with small group ensembles in different instruments beyond strings.