

Willaston Music Development Plan



Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mark Sykes
Music Specialists	Mark Sykes, Graham Proctor, Rhys Woollam
Governor with Responsibility for Music	Elaine West
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Love Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock Steady, Music Squad. Music for Life.

1 – Overall objective/ vision

INTENT

Willaston is a school which has a thriving musical culture and over the past 4 years, we have developed our curriculum and wider opportunities to enrich our children's experiences, develop our staff subject knowledge and to provide memorable and potentially life changing opportunities for children to create and perform – no matter what their interest. From this solid base, our vision is to develop our offering even further, offering more ambitious opportunities for children, developing a rigorous curriculum, enriching singing throughout school so that children can build cultural capital that will be a significant part of their lives as they grow and continue to enjoy creating and performing. We want to develop our links with our colleagues in secondary schools and utilise these links to inform our curriculum content and create further opportunities for our children, particularly those who would like to pursue musical excellence.

IMPLEMENTATION

Using quality first teaching, our music curriculum is designed to provide a well thought out sequence of learning for the children. We draw on elements from the Love Music Trust music programme and the Model Music Curriculum to create a bespoke curriculum that ensure that children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

Our curriculum map follows the structure of singing during autumn term, playing and instrument during spring term and then composing in the summer. Skills are mapped out and progression across these areas is built up from the start of Nursery, to the end of Year 6.

Children are given the freedom to enjoy music in a multitude of ways, whether it be as a listener, creator, or performer. They are taught to analyse music, comprehend its various components, and feel its rhythmic pulse.

Musical vocabulary is emphasized, and class discussions allow for respectful sharing of opinions and personal musical experiences.

Classroom lessons are carefully crafted to teach the elements of music, allowing children to use the language of music to analyse and appreciate it.

We provide opportunities for children to compose and perform using body percussion and vocal sounds, enabling them to develop their understanding of musical elements before learning a variety of instruments such as chime bars, recorders and glockenspiels.

We work with Love Music Trust to enhance our curriculum with specialists providing World Percussion opportunities and specialist teaching of the Modern Music Curriculum.

Our Music curriculum ensures that all pupils learn to use iPads and computers to create compositions and to with loops, sample and digital instruments. This allows children to show their creativity and share their own musical ideas.

Our curriculum is also enriched by singing assemblies and concerts which allow the pupils to showcase their talents and feel part of a musical community.

Pupils have the opportunity to receive instrument lessons from specialist peripatetic music teachers which further compliments our varied curriculum.

ASSESSMENT

Music is assessed using our skills progression map which highlights year group expectations from nursery to year 6. Children are supported in lesson with previous year's skills and vocabulary being recapped to ensure that no learning is lost.

IMPACT

During their learning journey in school, pupils are exposed to a diverse range of musical activities that allow them to:

- Feel inspired by the work of others and are excited to develop a life-long learning for the subject
- Develop their capacity for imaginative and original thought through experimentation.
- Develop their abilities to articulate and communicate ideas, options and feelings about their own work and that of others.
- Explore and develop their musical strengths, as well as identify areas where they can improve
- Develop essential skills such as self-confidence, collaboration, and self-reflection.
- Foster an appreciation and understanding of different cultures and histories, both individually and across the globe.
- Be equipped with the necessary skills to continue their appreciation of music. This equips them with the skillset to succeed throughout KS3 and fosters a love of music for the future.
- Learn about musicians and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.
- Achieve well in Music which is reflected through a consistent learning journey and clear progress.

2 – Key components

- Create lasting memories from a range of musical experiences
- Developed resilience, competence and confidence in their own ability in a range of Music skills

Children at Willaston receive:

- 1 hour of timetabled music a week. This involves singing, appraising, playing and composing and is adapted from the Love Music Trust curriculum or time with a music specialist from Love Music Trust.
- Weekly, whole-school singing assemblies
- Parents assemblies and performances for each year group featuring musical performance
- Whole school musical performances for KS2 music projects.
- A 10-week music project for all pupils in Years 5 and 6 through Love Music Trust World Percussion to
- Productions linked to celebrations and key events for all years inc Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Topics and End of Y6 Play.
- Extra-curricular opportunities for singing in our Young Voices school choir, guitar club, piano lesson through Music Squad, brass/woodwind through Music for Life and Rock Steady bands.

Learning ladders are adopted for: composing, performing, listening and understanding and reviewing music.

The progression of these skills and the vocabulary taught starts in nursery and concludes in year 6, aiming to equip our children with the musical literacy so that they are ready for Key Stage 3 and beyond. Extra-curricular and wider opportunity music lessons are provided by specialist music teachers from a range of different companies, offering our children the change to learn different instruments .

Pupil Premium funding is used to subsidise music lessons as we believe that learning a musical instrument is an enriching discipline which can help children in other aspects of their school journey. This is attended by children in Key Stage 2, with a focus on SEND and pupil Premium participation. Staff are supported by Love Music Trust who provide regular CPD.

3 – Classroom instrumental teaching

Willaston Primary Academy offers a bespoke curriculum based on the LMT curriculum. Classes receive weekly music lessons using instruments (tuned and untuned as required), complemented by World Percussion projects in years 5 and 6, taught by staff and supported by LMT staff. Children who want to continue their musical journey, receive additional small group or 1:1 lessons in brass, woodwind, piano, acoustic guitar and Rock Steady (inc bass, keyboard, guitar vocals and drums). Instruments are provided by different peripatetic teachers, the school's supply of instruments, generously donated instruments from parents and additional instruments are borrowed from Love Music Trust.

4 – Implementation of key components

As described in section 2:

Children at Willaston Primary receive an hour of timetabled music a week. This involves singing, appraising, playing and composing and is adapted from the Love Music Trust curriculum. We have weekly, whole-school singing assemblies and each class has the chance to showcase their musical learning to their parents termly, through performances, productions, workshops and class assemblies. We use learning ladders for: composing, performing, listening and understanding and reviewing music. The progression of these skills and the vocabulary taught starts in nursery and concludes in year 6, equipping our children with the musical literacy so that they are ready for Key Stage 3 and beyond. Many of our children receive extracurricular music lessons, either 1:1 or as an ensemble. We currently offer piano, keyboard, guitar, brass/woodwind, Rock Steady rock band tuition and a free Y6 Rock Band. These lessons are provided by specialist music teachers from a range of different companies and our staff, offering our children the chance to learn different instruments. We offer after-school clubs targeted at children who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding and subsidise music lessons as we believe that learning a musical instrument is an enriching discipline which can help children in other aspects of their school journey. We have a well-attended Young Voices choir which meets once a week and performs throughout the year. This is attended by children in Key Stage 2, with a focus on SEND and pupil Premium participation.

5 – Communication activities

Musical activities are communicated to parents via email, the school website and Facebook. Children in the choir access learning at home activities from the school website to further enrich their additional curricular experiences. Children regularly perform to an audience through class assemblies, whole year performances and whole school musical events. Musicians are also encouraged to perform in the local community in partnership with local councillors, three concerts per year for Richmond Village care home with KS1 and KS2 buddies, Worm Charming, Carols on the Green and Willaston Garden Party. These are promoted to the wider community via the above listed channels of social media. Musical activities are celebrated via our headteachers newsletter.

6 – Evaluation process for the success of the Music Development Plan

Yearly subject action plans and support from Love Music Trust. As part of our MAT, we have subject deep dives and regularly support each other with CPD and group events. Willaston undertook a subject deep dive in 2023 with an external partner.

7 – Transition work with local secondary schools

This an area in which we are looking to develop further, through links with Malbank Highschool. We are in contact with music leads to develop these links further.

8 – Budget materials and staffing

As a school, we pay to be part of the Love Music Trust. This entitles us to access to their updated curriculum, CPD, musical instrument hire and access their grants and funding. By meeting the grant stipulations, we then receive funding which we have used to fund Specialist music teachers over the year. This sustainable model ensures that we meet the needs of the children in our school, providing them with quality teaching, resources and opportunities. We also carry out additional fund raising through music grants and our FWSA (PTA). Recently, this has enabled us to develop our music instrument library and purchase additional equipment for extra-curricular activities.

9 – Pupil Premium and SEND provision

We offer after-school clubs targeted at children who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding and subsidise music lessons as we believe that learning a musical instrument is an enriching discipline which can help children in other aspects of their school journey. We have a well-attended Young Voices school choir which meets once a week and performs throughout the year. This is attended by children in Key Stage 2, with a focus on SEND and pupil Premium participation. We have chosen chime bars and glockenspiels and recorders as our fundamental tuned instruments as they are easy to adapt to a range of SEND abilities. This is under constant review so that we can meet the needs of all children in our school.

10 – Summary Action Plan

Develop more opportunities for KS1 music ensembles including recorder.

Music enrichment projects for KS1

Continue to work alongside Love Music Trust, using their curriculum-lead to monitor our curriculum and the implementation of the Love Music Trust curriculum and progression of skills.

Use of Seesaw to record and review performances

Use of music books for recording learning including notation and listening.