

Music development plan summary: The Willows Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Natalie Clarke
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	One Education Manchester
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Front Row Music One Education Manchester

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 Primary School we want children to gain a firm understanding of what Music is through singing, playing instruments, improvising and exploring, composing, listening and appraising across a wide range of historical periods, styles, traditions and musical genres. We use the Musical Express Scheme with strong woven links to the Model Music Curriculum where best practice can be seen. We are committed to inspire and engage pupils to develop a love for Music and their talents as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. We understand the value of the national plan of music being the power to change lives.

We aim for all children to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of Music and creative excellence. Children's interests and talents are also encouraged and showcased in class, performances and assemblies ensuring that everyone is challenged regardless of previous musical experience.

Within the EYFS, Music is an integral part of children's learning journey. Rhyme and rhythm play a key part in children's learning. Children learn a wide range of songs and rhymes and develop skills for performing together. Singing and music making opportunities are used frequently to embed learning, develop musical awareness and to demonstrate how music can be used to express feelings.

At The Willows children are provided with opportunities to further embed their love and understanding of Music. Through the teaching of Music within the classroom, children are given the support and confidence to develop themselves as learners. Our Curriculum designed to enable our pupils to 'Reach for the Stars' through their learning. We aim for our children to grow both academically and socially and our curriculum has been created to achieve these aspirations for all.

Children are shown the skills in order to practice and build resilience when learning a musical instrument. Developing such skills will empower pupils to overcome challenges that they face in the future. Our music curriculum also encourages pupils to improve their work by reflecting upon areas that they could improve on within their compositions and performances.

Within The Willows we have specialist teachers of Music to deliver Music effectively. Within our curriculum provision for Music, Children in Year 3 continuing to Year 4 benefit from whole class specialist teaching of African Drumming, delivered by a musical tutor from One Education once a week. These lessons allow children the opportunity to learn to play an instrument as part of an ensemble and to engender a love of music learning. Throughout the sessions the interrelated elements of music are developed. One Education music leaders have also been working with the school modelling supportive sessions for staff to further develop the delivery of lessons. One Education also have delivered staff meetings where best practice teaching ideas have been shared.

Through specialist tutoring of Ukulele and Guitar lead by Front Row Music teachers, children are encouraged to develop their talents both inside and outside of school. Front Row Music tutors work with the children on a weekly basis 1-1 and in small group situations.

Pupils also have the opportunity to join the school choir. The school choir is currently open to KS2 children on a weekly basis. Pupils in the school choir focus on singing in unison, developing harmony, solo performances and having fun! The choir have performed at numerous community events such as Christmas choir singing at Manchester Airport, Asda at Wythenshawe Civic Centre and at an event working with Wythenshawe Community Housing Group.

In addition to the school choir children's love for Music is valued each week through our weekly singing assemblies where songs are sung for every occasion. Through daily classroom practice, songs are woven through cross curricular lessons throughout the school especially within Maths and Phonics lessons. Within Early Years Nursery rhymes are sung every day and singing is a key part of their Early Years experience.

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.

Through specialist tutoring of Ukulele and Guitar lead by Front Row Music tutors, children are encouraged to develop their talents both inside and outside of school.

Pupils also have the opportunity to join the school choir. The school choir is currently open to KS2 children on a weekly basis. Pupils in the school choir focus on singing in unison, developing harmony, solo performances and having fun! The school choir have been to numerous community events such as singing carols at Manchester Airport and Wythenshawe Forum. They have also been part of 'The Festive Community Connector' which is a networking, festive event for community groups, including NHS, Wythenshawe Community Housing Group.

One Education have also shared links to extra-curricular Musical Mondays which are displayed within the school and are free to all students to encourage a further love for Music outside of school. Through Music

Through our links with One Education children to listen and enjoy live performances online through free musical performances. Just recently we enjoyed a Black History Month performance. Musicians within the Front Row Music band have performed within Whole School assemblies to celebrate Music at the start of a school year. Year 6 children enjoy high quality live West End Musical performances as part of their end of year school trip to London.

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.

Music within The Willows promotes children's physical and mental health. Performance is at the heart of musical teaching and learning. Pupils participate in a range of performances during their school 'career' building on children's confidence and self-esteem. These include nativities (KS1), Christmas songs performances, and a Leavers performance (Year 6). Pupils also take part in Harvest assemblies and singing assemblies throughout the year. Pupils who are confident are encouraged to perform in solo performances. Parents are invited and welcomed to watch all of these performances whether at school or outside of school.

Children also enjoy regular musical concerts from Front Row Music where musicians regularly perform in front of the children through school and class assemblies and performances. This year we saw a live Front Row music band.

Children who have been attending Front Row Music sessions also take part in performances throughout the year to showcase their talents.

The choir regularly perform in front of the whole school community and parents through Child of the term assemblies throughout the year and at other events outside of school e.g. Manchester Airport and Wythenshawe town centre.

Children accessing African Drumming sessions enjoy wowing audiences throughout the year through their show stopping performances.

In the future

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

In the future The Willows will continue to develop a high quality music education to all pupils. We will continue to use the Music Express scheme across all year groups embedding singing, listening, composing and performing. In the next academic year we would like to continue to value the importance of music by delivering Music on a weekly basis. After our positive end to last year of working with One Education to further develop the confidence of staff with the delivery of Music, we would like to offer additional staff meetings where the delivery of Music is revisited to ensure there is consistency of the delivery of Music amongst all staff.

We have invested further in tuned instrument provision such as glockenspiels in order to impact positively on standards of teaching and learning within musical sessions.

We would like to build on the experiences the children gain in school and extend their opportunities to play for pleasure in instrumental tuition. We will continue to try to boost numbers of children playing the Ukulele and Guitar through Front Row Music live assemblies. We will continue to provide a safe space for the children to learn. The school is very much keen to explore the use of other instruments in school such as Keyboards and recorders.

We would like to further develop the choir and arrange other opportunities for the children to work with the community.

Within Early Years we are looking to explore links with the Music Express scheme so that quality Music sessions further enriches the children's experiences within Nursery and Reception.

We would also love to seek further opportunities for our children to experience live musical performances.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.