

# Music development plan summary: Willowbrook School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	1.9.25
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Becky Tucker
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Becky Tucker (AHT)
Name of local music hub	Devon and Torbay Music Education Hub

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

### **Willowbrook Music Subject intent:**

*By the time a Willowbrook pupil leaves our school they will have the opportunity to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music from a range of genres, styles and traditions. They will learn to sing on their own and with others and have the opportunity to learn a variety of instruments including appropriate musical notations. They will have a solid understanding of how music is created, produced and communicated by having opportunities to listen, appraise, compose, improvise and perform. They will explore with the following musical elements: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure.*

Children will have two subject specific blocks of music teaching in each year group. One of these will follow a unit selected from the Charanga Music scheme and the other will involve whole class instrumental tuition, including recorders (Years 1-3), Djembe drumming (Year 4) and Ukuleles (Years 5 & 6). The drumming and ukuleles are taught

by specialist music teachers. Alongside these music blocks, each year group will also have access to a weekly singing assembly for 30 minutes, as well as other singing opportunities in the classroom wherever possible.

We have written our own 'Listening Curriculum', drawing upon information from the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). This involves a range of music from different genres that we want all the children to be exposed to. Each music lesson will start with a song from this curriculum which will be discussed. The following part of our Music lessons are for musical knowledge. We have created knowledge organisers for each year group using information from the National Plan for Music Education. We have a dedicated part of the lesson to work on and retrieve musical vocabulary and knowledge, before then starting the charanga session or the whole class instrumental session.

The whole school have opportunities to perform when they have their block of music teaching, as well as through whole school performances. At Christmas, we have a nativity for Nursery and for Reception and then a carol concert for the rest of the school. We also hold an Easter concert and a end of year play for Year 2 and Year 6. Our annual 'Exe Factor' competition is always well attended, with children auditioning and performing to the rest of the school.

Last year the whole school had their curriculum enriched by workshops led by Sonopera (partly funded by the Devon Music Hub). This really enthused a love for Music and gave the children an opportunity to hear live musicians as well as work alongside them.

Year 5 are having their curriculum offered enriched by a singing specialist teacher from Exeter School attending fortnightly, working on repertoire that they will then perform at a collaborative concert with other schools in March.

## **Part B: Extra-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.

Children have the opportunity to learn an individual instrument through individual peripatetic lessons on a range of instrument once a week. We currently have around 10% of the school accessing these lessons. Children also have the opportunity to learn to be part of a band through 'Rocksteady' weekly lessons. Although these lessons are paid for by parents, some Pupil Premium money is also used to support children with these lessons. Children can sign up to lessons at any point in the year and we currently have children learning drums, piano, recorder, guitar and singing.

Twice a year we hold a music assembly for all the children learning these instruments to perform to the whole school and we have termly Rocksteady rock concerts for our school bands to inspire us all.

This year we aim to provide group recorder lessons free of charge for children in Year 3 and above (Summer term Year 3 after their whole class recorder sessions) who choose to sign up and buy their own recorder – they work their way through our own ‘Record Karate’ scheme to earn themselves ribbons as they develop. As a school, we recognise that this can be the start of children learning an individual instrument and know how valuable these lessons can be.

We have a KS2 choir that runs weekly (55 children were in attendance in the Year 2024-25) before school on a Friday. They have the opportunity to perform in singing assemblies to the rest of the school but also during many school shows/ performances such as Christmas and the summer fair. We utilise any opportunities that we can to perform in our local area and have taken part in the Christmas concert at St James’s Football stadium in Exeter for the past few years. We also visit the local old people’s home and sing them some carols. Last year we took part in the Young Voices program; an exciting opportunity to perform with 9,000 other children in the O2 Arena, London. Children rehearsed in school across the Autumn term and then took part in the most amazing concert, produced by the UK’s leading sound and light companies in January. We have signed up to take part in the Young Voices choir again this year, performing in Birmingham.

We also get involved in as many local opportunities as possible, and last year had the opportunity to perform at the Exeter Cathedral as part of a 200 piece mass school choir alongside a professional orchestra – an incredible experience for all.

We also have a KS1 choir and a taiko drumming club that both happen after school for a term during the school year.

## **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.

The following are a list of performance opportunities that we provide at Willowbrook and which children take part in these:

Weekly half an hour music assemblies (which also include some of our listening curriculum and knowledge curriculum retrieval) – One assembly for Rec-Y2 and another for Y3-6.

Autumn & Summer Instrumental Music assemblies – for all the children who have peripatetic lessons to show us what they have been learning.

Termly Rocksteady Rock concerts – for the children who pay for weekly Rocksteady sessions to show us what they have been learning.

Nursery and Reception both do a Nativity each at Christmas time.

KS1 & 2 perform a carol concert to parents and the local community

Each class puts together a class assembly that they perform to the rest of the school in KS1 and KS2 assemblies – this does not always include Music, but it does involve an element of performance.

The choir have many opportunities to perform: Carol singing at the OAP home, St James' Football stadium carol concert, Young Voices performance in January, Christmas carol concerts, Easter concert and Summer fair, as well as in our weekly singing assembly/ celebration assembly.

We have also had theatre performances in school led by outside companies.

Year 2 do an end of year show in our school hall and Year 6 do their end of year production in the theatre at St James' high school.

## In the future

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

The focus for this coming year:

- Embedding the listening and knowledge curriculums that we have in place to ensure that they are being used fully in all year groups across the school, as well as in Singing assemblies. A plan has been drawn up on include this knowledge in the assembly time and the music lead will support class teachers with their lessons at the planning stage.
- Taiko drumming club used to be successful group before COVID times, which we would like to get back up and running to provide another ensemble opportunity for the children.
- To enhance the musical experiences that we offer at Willowbrook, we would like to invite musicians and performers into school to raise the profile of Music.
- Improve our assessment profile by recording outcomes on Charanga. Recordings will be taken throughout their charanga unit and uploaded to the class – this will enable us to track progress across the year group and beyond.

- Expose children to a wider range of musical genres by having a 'genre' of the week and exposing children to composers in our reception foyer area. There will also be a display sharing the genre and composer information for the children to access.