

Music development plan summary: Willow Grove Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Lisa Kennedy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lisa Kennedy
Name of local music hub	Bedford
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Luton Royal Opera and Ballet English National Opera

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.

School Curriculum information is available on our website - [Curriculum - Willow Grove Primary School – Wixams – Bedford](#)

At Willow Grove, all pupils engage in a minimum of one hour of music education each week, in line with the recommendations of the Model Music Curriculum (DfE, 2021). This commitment ensures that every child, regardless of background or ability, has regular and meaningful access to high-quality music experiences.

A central element of our provision is specialist teaching delivered by the Luton Music Service, who provide at least 30 minutes of weekly whole-class music tuition across all year groups. This specialist input ensures that teaching aligns with the Model Music

Curriculum's spiral structure, supporting progression in listening, performing, composing, and musicianship.

In addition to these lessons, pupils participate in a weekly music assembly, which offers opportunities to explore diverse musical genres, develop a shared school repertoire, and engage in communal singing—known to promote wellbeing, confidence, and community cohesion (Welch et al., 2010). Classroom teachers further enrich this provision with integrated musical opportunities across the curriculum, supporting cross-disciplinary learning and cultural appreciation.

Our curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils experience a wide range of musical instruments through whole-class tuition over their time at Willow Grove. These include tuned and untuned percussion, recorders, keyboards, and ukuleles, as well as voice and body percussion. This inclusive and exploratory approach supports skill development, creativity, and enjoyment.

We are committed to inclusive practice. Pupils with SEND or other barriers to musical access are carefully considered in curriculum planning and lesson delivery. This may include differentiated resources, adapted instruments, visual aids, or alternative modes of engagement, ensuring that all pupils can participate fully and make progress.

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.

From 2025–26, Willow Grove will expand its music enrichment offer to include a Recorder Club and a School Choir, providing pupils with additional avenues to develop their musical skills and confidence beyond the classroom curriculum.

The Recorder Club, led by school staff with musical expertise, will offer pupils an accessible introduction to instrumental performance, note reading, ensemble playing, and musical discipline. As a low-cost and versatile instrument, the recorder supports early musical development and has been shown to positively impact fine motor skills and reading fluency (Hallam, 2010).

The School Choir, delivered by the Luton Music Service, will be open to pupils across multiple year groups and will emphasise vocal technique, harmony, musical expression, and teamwork. Group singing supports social-emotional development,

fosters a strong sense of community, and is linked to improved self-esteem and academic engagement (Young Voices, 2018; Hallam, 2019).

In addition to clubs, the school will host seasonal musical events, including a Christmas Carol Concert, to which families and the wider school community will be warmly invited. These performances give pupils opportunities to perform publicly, build confidence, and celebrate progress. Such events also help raise the profile of music within the school, increase parental engagement, and contribute to a rich and vibrant school culture.

Future plans may also include participation in local festivals, cluster school performances, or collaborative projects with arts organisations, in line with the National Plan for Music Education's emphasis on creating diverse musical pathways and partnerships (DfE, 2022).

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 Willow Grove, we place a strong emphasis on creative learning and cultural engagement, ensuring that all pupils regularly have opportunities to perform, compose, and experience live music as a vital part of their holistic development.

Performance is central to our approach. Every class is given the opportunity to perform for parents and peers at least once per term, either through curriculum music lessons or special events such as themed assemblies, seasonal celebrations, or cross-curricular showcases. These regular performance opportunities help pupils develop confidence, expression, and a sense of pride in their learning. Research shows that public performance promotes resilience, self-regulation, and oracy skills (Hallam & Creech, 2016).

We are proud to participate annually in the English National Opera's Finish This... project, which invites pupils to co-create operatic works, fostering skills in storytelling, composition, and collaboration. This project places pupil creativity at the heart of the process, supporting both artistic development and engagement with the classical arts.

In addition, our involvement in the Royal Opera House's Create and Dance and Create and Sing programmes provides staff with high-quality CPD and brings world-class music, drama, and dance resources into the classroom. These programmes integrate

movement and music, supporting cross-disciplinary learning and promoting inclusive access to the performing arts.

All pupils at Willow Grove also have opportunities to attend live performances, whether through visits to local theatres or concert venues, or via visiting musicians, ensembles, and theatre companies who perform in school. These experiences widen cultural horizons, support listening and critical thinking skills, and inspire a lifelong appreciation for the arts (Cultural Learning Alliance, 2017).

These creative and cultural experiences enrich our curriculum and align with our school's ethos: Be Creative. Be Authentic. Be Your Best.

In the future

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

As a newly established school, Willow Grove opened in September 2024 with pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1. Our vision for music is ambitious, and we recognise that as our school grows, so too will our musical provision—both in breadth and depth.

We are committed to delivering and exceeding the core entitlement outlined in the National Plan for Music Education (2022). Our phased growth allows us to strategically embed high-quality music education, ensuring strong foundations from the outset and ambitious expansion as the school develops.

Timetabled Curriculum Music (KS1–KS3)

Since opening, we have ensured that all pupils receive a minimum of one hour of music per week. As our school grows into Key Stage 2 and beyond, we will look to enhance this provision further, integrating additional enrichment opportunities, projects, and instrumental learning into the weekly timetable.

Instrumental and Vocal Access

We plan to introduce a broader range of instrumental tuition for Key Stage 2 pupils, with whole-class instrumental teaching continuing as a central entitlement. As pupil numbers grow, we will expand opportunities for peripatetic lessons and ensure access to learning both tuned and untuned instruments, including voice, to promote musical fluency and enjoyment. We also intend to participate in larger-scale events appropriate for older pupils, such as Young Voices and local music festivals.

School Choir and Vocal Ensemble

In 2025–26, we will establish a school choir, led by a specialist from the Luton Music Service, ensuring expert vocal development. This ensemble will provide performance opportunities within school and the wider community and grow into a core part of our school's cultural identity.

School Ensemble or Band

As pupil numbers increase, we aim to form a school band or instrumental ensemble, enabling pupils to collaborate musically and build performance discipline. We will work in partnership with local Music Hubs to secure specialist support, peripatetic teachers, and equipment, ensuring that all pupils have equitable access regardless of background.

Rehearsal and Practice Spaces

Currently, our facilities offer ample space for group rehearsals, and we aim to develop these further into dedicated performance and practice spaces. This may include storage for instruments, an improved flexible stage area to support school productions and musical showcases including lighting, the addition of mirrors and ballet

Termly Performances

We already deliver termly performance opportunities for each class. As we expand, we will introduce larger-scale productions (e.g., winter concerts, summer shows, and music festivals) that engage multiple year groups and provide pupils with rich opportunities to perform to varied audiences.

Live Music and Cultural Access

All pupils currently have access to at least one live performance experience per year, either through educational visits or in-school workshops. As the school grows, our ambition is that every pupil will attend a professional-level performance—including a West End production and a visit to the Royal Opera House or Ballet—at least once during their time at Willow Grove. These experiences support cultural capital, aspiration, and musical appreciation.

Through these developments, we will ensure that music remains a cornerstone of our curriculum and school identity, supporting our vision to inspire every child to Be Creative. Be Authentic. Be Your Best.

Further information (optional)

At Willow Grove, we believe that music is a powerful vehicle for expression, creativity, and inclusion. Our approach to music education is underpinned by the principle that every child is a musician and deserves access to high-quality musical opportunities, regardless of background or ability.

Our provision is aligned with the expectations set out in the Model Music Curriculum (DfE, 2021) and the National Plan for Music Education (DfE, 2022). These documents highlight the importance of a broad, rich, and sustained music education that includes listening, composing, performing, and appraising.

We work closely with the Luton Music Service and other local cultural partners to provide specialist teaching, support curriculum development, and offer exciting opportunities beyond the classroom, such as live performances, clubs, ensembles, and cross-arts projects. We are also committed to staff development, using CPD from partners like the Royal Opera House to ensure that all staff feel confident and supported in delivering musical learning.

Inclusion is at the heart of our music provision. We make careful adjustments to support pupils with SEND and other additional needs, ensuring all pupils can actively participate, succeed, and experience joy in music-making. This aligns with wider school strategies on equity, pupil premium, and whole-child development.

We are committed to continuously evaluating and enhancing our offer as the school grows. Our long-term goal is to create a vibrant, musical culture that:

- nurtures talent,
- builds confidence and collaboration,
- supports wellbeing,
- and enriches the educational journey of every child.

For more information about our music curriculum, partnerships, or upcoming events, please contact the school office or our Music Lead and Headteacher Lisa Kennedy.