# Music development plan summary: Wilson’s School

## Overview

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| Detail | Information |
| Academic year that this summary covers | 24-25 |
| Date this summary was published | August 2024 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | July 2025 |
| Name of the school music lead | Hayley Burton |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Gavin Englefield |
| Name of local music hub | Sutton Music Trust |

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students’ 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 students can achieve.

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| The Wilson’s School Music Department prides itself on its reflective approach to curriculum and pedagogy. During 2023-24, the department reviewed and revised the Key Stage 3 curriculum with a particular focus on the sequencing of topics and lessons to ensure that vital building blocks of musical knowledge and understanding are cemented in these years of compulsory music education. We focus on the accurate reading and use of staff notation to compose and perform in a range of styles.  Our priorities are informed by the [model music curriculum](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-music-in-schools) (March 2021), Ofsted’s [Research Review: Music](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-music/research-review-series-music) (2021), exam board CPD, meetings and CPD provided by the Sutton Music Hub, and conversations with schools with similarly high aspirations for Music.  Our curriculum at Key Stage 3 is orientated around three **core concepts: Performing; Composing;** and **Listening**. These match directly the Assessment Objectives of the GCSE and A Level qualifications we teach to students in Key Stages 4 and 5.  For 2024-25, our focus for review and revision is Key Stage 4, especially our GCSE Plus provision. We prepare students for examination according to the Pearson Edexcel board.  For further details of our Key Stage 3, 4, and 5 curricula, please see:  [Music | Wilson’s School (wilsons.school)](https://www.wilsons.school/curriculum/dept/music/)  The curriculum is adapted as necessary to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs, for example by presenting information in different forms or allowing additional processing time for pupils. All pupils are also able to access co-curricular music and any adaptations necessary would be made of a pupil with a disability.  The teaching of music is allocated in the curriculum as follows:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Key Stage 3** | | | **Year 7** | Classroom: **1 hour per week**, plus half termly homework  Topics include:  Small-group instrumental/vocal teaching: **30 minutes per week**, plus practice of a minimum of 40 minutes per week  **One concert per term** where students perform as part of a Wind Band or Choir  Concert rehearsal: **2 hours per term**  Enrichment: **1 hour per fortnight**. Topics include: Musical Women (Evelyn Glennie, Florence Price, Ethel Smyth, Anoushka Shankar); The Music Industry; Musical Theatre Reviews; The BBC Proms. | | **Year 8** | Classroom: **1 hour per week**, plus fortnightly homework | | **Key Stage 4** | | | **Years 9** | For GCSE Music students:  Classroom: 2 hours per week, plus weekly homework  For all Year 9 students: as part of the school’s Elizabethan enrichment programme, fortnightly cultural talks are programmed on a range of subjects, including classical music, featuring the local composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, British opera, film and video game, ballet, concert-going, and the “canon.” | | **Year 10** | For GCSE Music students:  Classroom: 2 hours per week, plus weekly homework  For all Year 10 students: 6-8 week enrichment programme using FLStudio | | **Year 11** | For GCSE Music students:  Classroom: 2 hours per week, plus weekly homework | | **Key Stage 5** | | | **Years 12 and 13** | Classroom: 9 hours per fortnight  Plus twice weekly homework |   **Singing and Instrumental Playing in the Curriculum**  Making music is a not only a core concept of our music education at Wilson’s, but a foundational part of every students’ experience at school. For over a decade, every student at Wilson’s has worked through the Year 7 Instrumental Programme, where students learn a new instrument from scratch or take singing lessons in small groups, performing in termly concerts as part of a wind band or choir, and culminating in a final assessment. Whether the student continues with lessons beyond Year 7 or if this is a unique year-long journey, all students come out of the experience with a profound understanding of the skill, resilience, and sheer hard work musical performance demands.  Singing in particular holds a position of high esteem in the school. On their very first day at Wilson’s, students learn the school song as part of a workshop, and form the main body of the choir at the annual Founder’s Service. From 2024-25, Key Stage 3 students will participate in the annual House Music Week by performing a House Song, which will be accompanied by a student band and prepared during music lessons and form time. |

## Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for students to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how students can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

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| **Music Ensembles and Clubs**  Ensembles rehearse on a weekly basis, and are lead by members of the permanent teaching staff, specialist instrumental, and students. Here are the ensembles on offer for 2024-25:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Ensemble** | **Direction/Leader** | **Membership Details/Contact** | | **Wilson’s School Symphony**  **Orchestra**​ | **Dr Burton** | Senior Orchestra, working on Grade 6 and above​ | | **Wilson’s Sinfonietta**​ | **Dr Burton**​ | Junior Orchestra, working on Grades 2-5​ | | **Odyssey Big Band**​ | **Mr Kramer**​ | Audition only ​ | | **Senior Wind Band**​ | **Dr Clayden**​ | All players, years 10-13​ | | **Middle School Wind Band**​ | **Dr Clayden**​ | All players, years 7-10​ | | **Strings Sinfonia**​ | **Dr Burton**​ | All players​ | | **Senior Strings**​ | **Dr Burton**​ | All players, years 10-13​ | | **Middle School Strings**​ | **Dr Burton**​ | All players, years 7-10​ | | **Junior Choir**​ | **Mr Hann**​ | All singers with unchanged voices welcome ​ | | **Cambiata**​ | **Mr Hann**​ | Changed voices/tenors and basses​ | | **Barbershop**​ | **Mr Hann**​ | Invitation only​ | | **Chamber Choir** | **Mr Hann** | Invitation only​ | | **Full School Choir** | **Mr Hann** | Comprised of all the listed singing groups above | | **Chamber Wind**​ | **Dr Clayden**​ | Invitation only​ | | **Cello Ensemble**​ | **Dr Burton**​ | Cellists, Grade 6 and above​ | | **Flute Ensemble**​ | **Mr Franks**​ | See ensemble leader | | **Double Reed Ensemble**​ | **Ms Dennis**​ | See ensemble leader | | **Clarinet Ensemble**​ | **Mr Sanders**​ | Invitation only; Grade 3 and above ​ | | **Brass Ensemble**​ | **Mr Scaife**​ | All players, Grade 2 and above​ | | **Guitar Ensemble**​ | **Mr Barcia** | All players welcome​ | | **Percussion Ensemble**​ | **Mr French**​ | See ensemble leader | | **String Quartet(s)**​ | **Ms Taylor**  **Dr Burton**​ | See Dr Burton | | **Carnatic Society**​  (Carnatic music ensemble) | **Student-led** | See Dr Burton | | **Skiaull**​  (folk group) | **Mr Kramer**​ | See Mr Kramer​ | | **Bands**​ | **Mr Kramer**​ | See Mr Kramer​ | | **GCSE Composition Club**​ | **Dr Clayden**  **Dr Burton**​ | Supervised composition time for Key Stage 4 students ​ | | **Music Theory Drop-In** | **Dr Burton** | All grades welcome |   Whilst all students are encouraged to participate in ensembles, students taking Music as one of their GCSE or A level subjects are required to participate in at least one ensemble, and students receiving private instrumental tuition in school are encouraged to hone their skills through ensemble playing. Membership and attendance are carefully monitored, and teaching staff take a proactive approach in tailoring experiences to the students’ interests and skills. For example, with advanced cellists and a recently acquired harpsichord, students rehearsed and performed Vivaldi’s Concerto in G minor for Two Cellos in the Spring Concert 2024.  **Peripatetic Music Lessons**  We have a team of 19 specialist instrumental and vocal teachers, who provide one-to-one lessons on a self-employed basis. For more information about the lessons on offer, please see here: [Music | Wilson’s School (wilsons.school)](https://www.wilsons.school/curriculum/dept/music/)  Lessons are charged at a termly rate of £225 for 10 lessons. Financial support is available for students eligible for Pupil Premium.  **Rehearsal Facilities**  In January 2023, the Wilson’s Music Department moved into a purpose-built music centre, the Britton Centre. For more information, please see here: [Music | Wilson’s School (wilsons.school)](https://www.wilsons.school/curriculum/dept/music/)  Students from across all years make use of the facilities before school, during break and lunch times, and after school, to practice individually and to rehearse in small groups. |

## 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.

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| **Concerts, Trips, and Events**  This is a summary of events for 2024-25:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | **Event** | **Who** | | Friday, 6 September | Year 7 Music Induction | Year 7 | | Wednesday, 11 September | First day of Year 7 Programme | Year 7 | | Tuesday, 17 September | Concert Trip: Mahler's Fifth Symphony, Odyssey Festival Orchestra, Cadogan Hall | A Level and Sixth Form Students | | Wednesday, 9 October | Concert Trip: Phenomenal Women, Chineke! Orchestra, Queen Elizabeth Hall | A Level and Sixth Form Students | | Thursday, 10 October | Battle of the Bands | All Year Groups | | **HALF TERM** | | | | Monday, 4 November | Concert Trip: Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, Royal Festival Hall | GCSE students in Years 10 and 11 | | Thursday, 7 November | Year 9 Recital Evening | GCSE students in Year 9 | | Wednesday, 13 November | Year 11 Recital Evening | GCSE students in Year 11 | | Thursday, 14 November | Trip to St. John's College, Cambridge | Chamber Choir (All Year Groups) | | Thursday, 21 November | Concert Trip: Harmony and Heritage, Chineke! Orchestra, Queen Elizabeth Hall | A Level and Sixth Form students | | Wednesday, 27 November | Year 7 Showcase (B, C, D) | Year 7 | | Thursday, 28 November | Year 7 Showcase (G, H, S) | Year 7 | | Wednesday, 11 November | Winter Concert | All Year Groups | | Thursday, 12 December | NEA Day for Years 11, 12 and 13 | GCSE students in Year 11; A Level students in Year 12 and 13 | | Tuesday, 17 December | Carol Service at Croydon Minster | All Year Groups | | **HOLIDAY** | | | | Wednesday, 15 January | Concert Trip: Britten, Gershwin, and Holst, Wayne Marshall and the German National Orchestra, Cadogan Hall | Key Stage 3 | | Thursday, 23 January | Spring Chamber Concert | All Year Groups | | Monday, 27 January - Friday 31, January | House Music | All Year Groups | | Wednesday, 5 February | Year 7 Soloists' Evening | Year 7 | | **HALF TERM** | | | | Friday, 7 March | Cousldon and Purley Festival | All Year Groups | | Saturday, 8 March | Cousldon and Purley Festival | All Year Groups | | Thursday, 13 March | Young Musician of the Year | All Year Groups | | Monday, 17 March | Founder’s Service | Year 7 plus additional singers from older years | | Thursday, 27 March | NEA Day for Years 11, 12 and 13 | GCSE students in Year 11; A Level students in Year 12 and 13 | | Wednesday, 26 March | Sixth Form Recital | A Level students | | Wednesday, 2 April | Spring Concert | All Year Groups | | **HOLIDAY** | | | | Wednesday, 23 April | Year 7 Showcase (B, C, D) | Year 7 | | Thursday, 24 April | Year 7 Showcase (G, H, S) | Year 7 | | Thursday, 1 May | Senior Vocalists' Evening | Years 10-13 | | Thursday, 8 May | Summer Chamber Concert | All Year Groups | | Thursday, 22 May | Year 8 Soloists' Evening | Year 8 | | **HALF TERM** | | | | Monday, 16 May | Open Evening 1 | Years 7-10 | | Tuesday, 17 May | Open Evening 2 | Years 7-10 | | Monday, 23 May | Open Evening 3 | Years 7-10 | | Tuesday, 24 May | Open Evening 4 | Years 7-10 | | Thursday, 26 June | Horniman Bandstand | All Year Groups |   **Concert Trips**  Before the pandemic, concert trips were a regular part of the department’s calendar of events. Since then, occasional concert trips have been scheduled to give GCSE and A level students opportunity to see set works (for example, Berlioz’s *Symphonie Fantastique* and Stephen Schwartz’s *Wicked!*) performed live. For 2024-25, a schedule of concert trips is being prepared, and will be fleshed out further during the year. Specifically, there are plans to take students to see an opera production by the English National Opera (ENO) at the London Coliseum, and a cinema trip to see the new film of *Wicked!* for our newest GCSE students.  **Assembly Music**  Before the pandemic, concert trips were a regular part of the department’s calendar of events. This will be firmly reinstated in 2024-25, giving our student pianists in particular a regular performance platform.  **Drama/Musical Productions**  Mr Kavanagh, our Head of Drama, directs two shows a year, one for students in Years 10-13, the other for students in Years 7-9. Typically, one of these shows will be a musical. Recent shows include *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *The Little Shop of Horrors.* Mr Kramer in the Music Department rehearses the musical numbers and directs the band for these productions, which brings together staff and students in a unique performance experience.  **Partnership with the Sutton Music Trust**  Wilson’s Music Department has an active relationship with the local music hub, Sutton Music Trust. In recent years, our students have attended workshops by the Philharmonia, performed in borough-wide performances such as Sutton Sings, and participated in borough-wide ensembles. We will continue to develop our working relationship with the Hub in the coming year. |

## In the future

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

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| Development priorities for 2024-25 are as follows:   * Focus on increasing singing opportunities for all students across year groups throughout the year  1. Focus on unfamiliar listening skills for all key stages 2. Development of online theory and listening resources/homework tasks 3. Outreach programme with local primary schools   Beyond 2024-25, plans include:   * Music tour for our most advanced ensembles * Collaboration with nearby schools, performing suitable repertoire e.g. Carmina Burana * Composition competition and/or workshops with external ensembles * Concerto competition |

## Further information

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| For more information regarding our local music hub, Sutton Music Trust, please visit their website: <https://suttonmusictrust.org.uk/> |