

# Music development plan summary: Woodlands Academy

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	12/06/2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr Thomas Turner
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Dean O'Connor
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 Woodlands we offer one hour per week of music education to all KS3 students (Year 7-8). For those students who opt to study Music further, we offer 5 hours per fortnight of music study.

Our curriculum at KS3 has been designed around the Model Music Curriculum published by the DfE in March 2021. This curriculum supports the development of students' knowledge and skills in both theoretical and practical music skills. Students are given a range of opportunities to learn to sing or play an instrument through individual, paired and group performances relevant to the specific scheme of learning focus such as Piano Performance, Rock Band and Samba.

Throughout the Key Stage three curriculum there are opportunities for students to develop their confidence and skills in performance through modules such as Musicals,

Djembe Drumming, Blues and Reggae, building upon the foundations of music in year 7.

We are proud that our curriculum is made accessible for all including SEND pupils by involving a range of different instruments to layer sounds creating a multi-sensory approach, the use of technology to support learning where appropriate, modelling practical examples, and memory and consolidation techniques. Music is unique in its ability to develop creative opportunities as well as develop essential skills like listening, working co-operatively, developing personal expression, developing alternative forms of communication, and enhancing a sense of wellbeing and personal achievement. We encourage students to appreciate a wide variety of music forms. We build upon this through a variety of approaches including, video clips of performances, listening to pieces of music, developing visual word banks and symbols as well as offering challenge to encourage resilience and determination.

At Key Stage 4, students who opt to take music further are able to gain a qualification in Trinity Rock & Pop Grade 6 or NCFE Level Two Music Technology, building on the knowledge and skills they have learnt in Key Stage 3.

The breadth of our curriculum and exposure to varied instruments and opportunities is enhanced by Essex Music Services, which offer personalised tuition for a number of instruments including: drums, guitar, piano and vocals.

## **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.

At Woodlands we are able to offer one-to-one tuition through Essex Music Services to any student interested in taking up an instrument regardless of their experience. We are proud to be able to offer some lessons for free and encourage all those young pupils coming up from primary school to continue their music lessons. The Instruments offered are Vocals, Piano, Guitar, Bass and Drums and cost £91.50 for 15 minute weekly sessions over a course of 10 weeks.

We are also able to offer 5 practice rooms and a recording studio for individuals or groups, we have two music room teaching spaces as well as two performance spaces for music, dance and performing arts.

Outside of lesson time we run several clubs and encourage and active participation. These include: APT Music, open rehearsal rooms, school production team. APT music is an elite group of musicians who audition to be part of the program every year and enables year 6 students to enter the school through this route. These students will be part of a unique tutor group allowing an extra 20-minute block to develop their musical

ability every morning and will have two lunchtime workshops every week focusing on projects such as Ensemble skills, Performance pieces, Composition and Recording. Students have the opportunity to create their own bands or groups and use practice space regularly to develop their talents.

Across the academic year we encourage students to get involved in opportunities such as our Christmas Concert and Summer Talent show, AROE Awards evening, Annual Musical Production and Performance nights. Performance pieces range from Student bands, Solo instrumentalists and Vocal ensembles. We also encourage students to take up the opportunity of experiences like the West End musical trip and workshops.

## **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.

Every year we run a Performing Arts Musical, to involve singing, dancing and acting performances. This academic year we will be venturing to New York for the classic Bugsy Malone, last year we put on the musical 'High School Musical' and previously 'Matilda.' Each year we encourage students to take part in an audition for particular roles and enjoy after school and weekend practice for the cast and ensemble. We also encourage students to take part in staging, lighting and costume and backstage crew to allow students a broad experience of performing arts.

Another way that students can get involved in Woodlands' musical programme is through supporting after school events, for example the annual AROE Awards evening to which students will provide musical interludes and performance, open to parents, and our annual opening evenings. We also deliver a Christmas and Summer concert, open to all year groups to take part in or watch and encourage parents to get involved too. Most of these events charge a small price between £3-8.

We have also started to encourage participation in a Woodlands Talent Show with a half termly focus in APT tutor sessions and lunchtime workshops for developing acts, promotion, backstage and technical roles. Currently, this has been open to APT pupils but this year we will be encouraging all students across all year groups to apply and can enter as solo acts, pairs or groups. Acts range from musical tributes, bands, solos, or group performances, including dance and acting performances.

## In the future

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

Woodlands meets all 7 of the DfE's high quality music provision points including:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble (APT)
- a school ensemble, band or group (APT)
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

In the future Woodlands is working towards supporting students taking up the opportunity to learn more about the possible careers and education in the Creative Arts industry. This will be done by increasing outside opportunities for visits, in particular to see live performances and take part in workshops. Sourcing outside speakers and performers to come in to school. As well as increasing other partnerships, for example with Towngate and Chelmsford Theatres.

Woodlands regularly reviews its curriculum and is keen to ensure it keeps up to date with latest trends in music to engage students in the curriculum. Student voice also helps to ensure that we consider student interest.

Please see the DfE's [guide for parents and young people](#) on how you can get involved in music inside and outside of school, and where you can go to for further support beyond Woodlands.