

Music Development Plan: Windmill L.E.A.D Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	Autumn 2024 Updated Autumn 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Summer 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ellen Barclay
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Nottinghamshire 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 Windmill, we understand that music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. Music reflects the culture and society we live in and not only enables children to better understand the world around them but also provides a vehicle for personal expression.

Through our teaching of music, we teach skills which transcend the music curriculum; improvising and composing, listening and appraising, performance (instrumental) and performance (vocal). Lessons are engaging, active and practical, with visual aids and practical equipment to ensure inclusivity.

At Windmill we have access to Charanaga's English Model Music Curriculum Scheme and teachers are encouraged to use the breadth of resources available to plan, deliver and assess pupils development and progress.

Singing is a key thread throughout our music provision at Windmill and features daily in classroom throughout the school. This is particularly prominent in our Early Years unit where singing is used to support language development and oracy skills.

Pupils also access a variety of tune and untuned instruments:

- Percussion in EYFS and KS1 included glockenspiels
- Recorders in Year 3
- Whole class violin lessons in Year 4
- Opportunity to study for Grades in violin in Year 5 and 6
- Ukulele in Year 5

We also aim to close the gap between groups such as disadvantaged / SEND pupils, by targeting children who are pupil premium to take up instrumental lessons. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen to and appreciate different forms of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch, making music together, understanding musical notation and composing pieces.

At Windmill we ensure that music is taught to a high standard and teachers are frequently given guidance on how to achieve this through staff meetings and updates throughout the academic year. Teachers have access to free CPD provided by Charanga throughout the year. Teachers plan lessons for their class using our curriculum progression maps supported by the detailed plans provided Charanga.

The impact of our music curriculum at Windmill is monitored in the following ways:

- Learning walks in the form of observations
- Curriculum and action plan reviews
- Data analysis of year group cohorts
- Pupil voice
- Staff questionnaires
- Self-audits for provision

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.

- Whole School Singing Assembly
- Weekly 'Music of the Week' where children are exposed to classic, modern and contemporary pieces of music, learning about different artists and composers

- Year 4 whole class weekly violin lessons with Nottingham Music Hub. Small group violin tuition for Year 5 pupils who showed interest in continuing tuition focus is targeted towards pupil premium pupils (subsidised by NMH). Opportunity to study for Grade 1 in violin
- KS2 Choir meet during the year and have the opportunity to perform at local events such as Nottingham's Christmas in the City
- KS1 and KS2 Recorder Club – led by class teacher from KS1 and KS2
- Early Years pupils have opportunities to explore different forms of music and sound and make music within their continuous provision as well as daily singing which takes place.

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 often features daily in all classrooms for a variety of purposes – early years especially throughout their day.
- EYFS Christmas performance includes singing and dancing with parents invited into school to watch. This is an opportunity for children to perform as part of a group, work as a team and develop their confidence.
- KS1 Nativity performance includes singing and dancing with parents invited into school to watch. This is an opportunity for children to perform as part of a group, work as a team and develop their confidence.
- Year 4 participate in the Great Orchestra Experiment in partnership with Nottingham Music Hub. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to participate in a live orchestral performance at the Nottingham Albert Hall. This was funded from the Year 4 trips budget.
- Year 4 give a violin performance at the Summer Fair
- Year 6 give a summer performance. This is an opportunity for pupils to perform songs in their production to parents in July.
- KS1 Summer singing concert in the playground, parents are invited into school and to make a donation to KS1's chosen charity.
- KS1 and EYFS attend an in-school performance by Nottingham Playhouse each year. This includes singing and musical performances. This is funded from the KS1 and EYFS budget.
- EYFS have a visiting workshop from Beatfeet drumming and dance workshop, which has cross- curricular links to history – paid for from the history budget.
- Music is also embedded throughout the school day throughout the curriculum, when working to create a calm atmosphere setting and also cross-curricular for example varieties of music in RE, Geography and History.

In the future

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

Windmill L.E.A.D Academy Actions:

- To display the seven elements of music in all classrooms across the school to aid with retrieval.
- To provide more opportunities for children to listen to live music in school through visiting specialists, visitors, bands, experience or internal staff talents.
- To provide CPD to all staff to embed good practice and develop music throughout the curriculum.
- Termly class music assemblies
- Termly music mornings to showcase classroom music learning where parents are invited into school.
- Invite external musicians and practitioners into school to provide extra curricular musical experiences

Further information (optional)