# Music development plan summary:Wilson’s School

## Overview

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| Detail | Information |
| Academic year that this summary covers | 25-26 |
| Date this summary was published | August 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | July 2026 |
| 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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| We take a high reflective approach to curriculum and pedagogy. Our curriculum builds from the accurate reading and use of staff notation to compose and perform in a range of styles and genres. 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. The culmination of the redesign of the Key Stage 3 curriculum will be realised this year with the development of a new Year 8 unit entitled ‘Minimalism at the Movies’ and the redesign of an existing unit on pop songs to incorporate the use of a DAW (digital workstation). For 2025-26, 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/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:

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| **Key Stage 3** |
| **Year 7** | Classroom: **1 hour per week**, plus half termly homeworkTopics 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 ChoirConcert 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 homeworkFor 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 homeworkFor 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 fortnightPlus 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 2025-26, 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 led by members of the permanent teaching staff, specialist instrumental, and students. Here are the ensembles on offer for 2025-26:

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| **Ensemble** | **Staff** | **Membership Details** |
| **Wilson’s School Symphony** **Orchestra**​ | **Dr Burton** | All yearsStrings: Grade 6+Wind, Brass, Percussion: by invitation only |
| **Wilson’s Sinfonietta**​ | **Dr Burton**​ | Orchestral players, Grades 3-6 |
| **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 Weymes** | All singers with unchanged voices |
| **Cambiata**​ | **Mr Weymes** | Changed voices/tenors and basses​ |
| **Barbershop**​ | **Mr Kramer** | Invitation only​ |
| **Chamber Choir** | **Mr Weymes** | Invitation only​ |
| **Full School Choir** | **Mr Weymes** | Comprised of all the listed singing groups above |
| **Pop Choir** | **Ms Brennan** | All singers |
| **Chamber Wind**​ | **Dr Clayden**​ | By 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**​s | **Mr Barcia** | All players welcome​ to form two ensembles: beginner/intermediate and intermediate/advanced |
| **Percussion Ensemble**​ | **Mr French**​ | See ensemble leader |
| **Chamber Ensembles** | **Ms Taylor****Dr Burton**​ | By arrangement with staff |
| **Carnatic Society**​ (Carnatic music ensemble)  | **Student-led** |  |
| **Skiaull**​ (folk group) | **Mr Kramer**​ | By arrangement with staff |
| **Bands**​ | **Mr Kramer**​ | By arrangement with staff |
| **GCSE Composition Club**​ | **Dr Burton****Mr Kramer****Dr Clayden**​ | 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/music/)Lessons are charged at a termly rate of £235 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/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 2025-26: **AUTUMN TERM**

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| **Date** | **Event** | **Year Groups** |
| Friday, 5 September | Year 7 Music Induction | Year 7  |
| Thursday, 25 September | RPO Concert Trip: Midori plays Sibelius | Sixth Form |
| Tuesday, 30 September | RPO Concert Trip: Stravinsky’s Firebird | Year 11 |
| Thursday, 9 October | Battle of the Bands | All year groups |
| Wednesday, 15 October | Year 9 Recital Evening | Year 9  |
| Thursday, 16 October | RPO Concert Trip: Boris Giltburg plays Grieg | Year 10 |
| Thursday, 6 November | Year 11 Recital Evening 1 | Year 11 |
| Wednesday, 12 November | Year 11 Recital Evening 2 | Year 11 |
| Tuesday, 25 November | RPO Concert Trip: Mendelssohn, Elgar and Wagner | Years 10-13 |
| Wednesday, 26 November  | Year 7 Showcase 1 | Year 7  |
| Thursday, 27 November  | Year 7 Showcase 2 | Year 7 |
| Wednesday, 3 December | Winter Concert | All year groups |
| Tuesday, 16 December | Carol Service | All year groups |

**SPRING TERM**

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| **Date** | **Event** | **Year Groups** |
| Tuesday, 6 January | Prize Giving | All year groups |
| Thursday, 15 January | New Year Chamber Concert | All year groups |
| Monday, 26 January to Friday, 30 January | House Music | All year groups |
| Wednesday, 4 February | Year 7 Soloists’ Evening | Year 7 |
| Monday, 9 February-Thursday, 12 February  | Senior Production | Years 10-13 |
| Thursday, 26 February | RPO Concert Trip: Strauss’ Four Last Songs | Sixth Form |
| Wednesday, 4 March | RPO Concert Trip: Alexandra Tirsu plays Prokofiev | Years 9-11 |
| Wednesday, 11 March | Sixth Form Recital Evening | Sixth Form |
| Monday, 16 March | Year 7 Founder’s Service | Year 7 |
| Wednesday, 25 March | Young Musician of the Year | All year groups |

**SUMMER TERM**

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| **Date** | **Event** | **Year Groups** |
| Thursday, 16 April | Senior Vocalists’ Evening | Years 10-13 |
| Wednesday, 22 April  | Year 7 Showcase 1 | Year 7 |
| Thursday, 23 April | Year 7 Showcase 2 | Year 7 |
| Wednesday, 29 April | Spring Concert | All year groups |
| Thursday, 7 May | Spring Chamber Concert | All year groups |
| Thursday, 21 May | Year 8 Soloists’ Evening | Year 8 |
| Wednesday, 10 June | RPO Concert Trip: Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No.5 | Year 10 |
| Monday, 15 June | Visit to Wilson’s 1 | All year groups |
| Tuesday, 16 June | Visit to Wilson’s 2 | All year groups |
| Monday, 22 June | Visit to Wilson’s 3 | All year groups |
| Tuesday, 23 June | Visit to Wilson’s 4 | All year groups |
| Friday, 26 June TBD | Horniman Bandstand Concert | 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. In 2024-25, students attended trips to a range of concerts to see performers and ensembles, including Chineke!, the conductor Alpesh Chauhan, the Royal Philarmonic Orchestra, the mezzo-soprano and Joyce Di Donato. For 25-26, concert trips will be primarily to the RPO series for which student tickets are available for £5. **Assembly Music**Before the pandemic, concert trips were a regular part of the department’s calendar of events. This was reinstated in 2024-25 and will continue in 25-26, 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,* *The Little Shop of Horrors, Parade* and *The Lion King*. 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. During 24-25, our department hosted a borough-wide composition workshop by the Philharmonia and a final concert featuring compositions by students from across Sutton, including Wilson’s students, performed by Philharmonia musicians. 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 2025-26 are as follows: * Focus on increasing singing opportunities for all students across year groups throughout the year
* Development of DAW-based (digital audio workstation) unit for Key Stage 3
* Review of GCSE Plus provision
* Participation in competitions by at least two large ensembles

Beyond 2026-27, plans include: * Music tour for our most advanced ensembles
* Collaboration with nearby schools, performing suitable repertoire e.g. Carmina Burana
* Concerto competition
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## 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/>  |