

Music development plan summary: Wilson's School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Thomas Motley
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.

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](#) (March 2021), Ofsted's [Research Review: 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).

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 \(wilsons.school\)](http://wilsons.school)

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 The Vox programme provides further enrichment opportunities.
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 not only a core concept of our music education at Wilson's, but a foundational part of every student's 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.

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.

Music Ensembles and Clubs

Ensembles rehearse on a weekly basis and are led by members of the permanent teaching staff, specialist instrumental, and students. Further information about ensembles available to pupils can be found on the department microsite.

Peripatetic Music Lessons

We have a team of 20 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://wilsons.school/music)

Lessons are charged at a termly rate of £245 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://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.

Concerts, Trips, and Events

A huge range of concerts, trips and events takes place each year. Details can be found on the department microsite. Below is information about the experiences that pupils enjoyed during 2025-26.

AUTUMN TERM

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

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

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	Horniman Bandstand Concert	All year groups

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*. The show lined up for February 2027 is Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma*.

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. Recently, 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.

Development priorities for 2026-27 are as follows:

- Focus on increasing singing opportunities for all students across year groups throughout the year, with new opportunities for students to take part in evensong services
- Development of DAW-based (digital audio workstation) unit for Key Stage 3
- Review of GCSE Plus provision

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

Further information

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