

Music development plan summary

Woodlands Secondary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 / 2026
Date this summary was published	May 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Maria Sexton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Caroline Lowry
Name of local music hub	Luton Music Service https://www.lutonmusicservice.co.uk/

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.

School Context

Woodlands Secondary School is a special educational needs secondary school in Luton with 265 students working across pre-formal, informal, and semi-formal curriculums. The school demonstrates a strong commitment to music education through diverse provision that meets the varied needs of all learners. Woodlands have been awarded the Music Mark for Schools.

Vision and Intent

Our music provision aims to provide all students, regardless of their starting points or learning needs, with opportunities to:

- Experience high-quality music education tailored to their developmental stage
- Develop musical skills, knowledge and confidence
- Participate in meaningful musical experiences both within school and in the wider community
- Express themselves creatively through music
- Build social connections and well-being through musical activities

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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.

Curriculum Music

Staffing:

- 1 qualified Music Teacher (0.6 FTE - 3 days per week)
- 3 staff trained in Open Orchestras delivery

For SLD Curriculum:

- Weekly discreet music lesson of high-quality curriculum music
- Progressive skill development in singing, playing instruments, composing and listening skills
- Diverse musical repertoire representing different cultures and styles exploring instruments, movement & voice.
- Clear learning sequences building knowledge cumulatively
- Composition projects with the English National Opera.
- Opportunity to perform & showcase their work, progress & achievements.

For PMLD Curriculum:

- Music experiences tailored to developmental stage
- Focus on sensory engagement, communication, and emotional response
- Regular, predictable musical interactions supporting routine and anticipation
- Sensory music experiences appropriate to developmental stage
- Use of music to support wider development goals
- Opportunity to perform & showcase their work, progress & achievements

WISERR curriculum:

- Music experiences tailored to developmental stage
- Hobbies Music sessions delivered weekly by the class teacher
- Additional music sessions delivered by In Tune Music (alternating half terms)
- Focus on fun, engaging music for wellbeing
- Participation in all our concerts.

Inclusive Practice:

We recognise that pupils' work can take many forms and we ensure:

- Appropriate adaptations and reasonable adjustments for all students
- Access to suitable instruments including adapted instruments (Clarion)
- Clear communication strategies to support participation & BSL promoted throughout.
- Differentiated learning objectives matched to individual needs
- A wide range of musical projects including soundscapes, Foley artistry, composition, dancing, class samba band, African drumming, becoming a band, singing, ensemble & individual work, exploring music from all across the world and multiple genres so all learners feel heard & seen.
- Lessons filmed & added to our drive by our music lead for school concerts & performances.

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Part B: Extra Curricular music

Extra-Curricular Music

Choir

Woodlands have a weekly school choir that is open to students across all curriculum pathways. This is a space where learners are able to access singing through voice, signing & movement. BSL is used throughout so all learners are able to access the session. The choir is led by the music teacher.

Weekly assemblies are held that incorporate singing and signing.

Concerts: Leading up to our immersive concerts both at Summer & Christmas the Music Lead will film Music Lessons for all classes to follow at their own pace so all learners across the whole school can learn the songs that will be in the concerts. All songs will be broken down and signed for classes to follow.

Steel Pan Lessons:

Weekly steel pan lessons are delivered by a local steel pan company 'Steel Pan in Motion' (funded by Luton Carnival Arts). These sessions are delivered weekly to a class of KS3 students from the SLD curriculum.

Open Orchestra

Incorporated into the SLD & PD music curriculum to enhance musical experiences through touch & colour. A space that allows creative expression & freedom using Clarion where sessions are learner centred.

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.

Whole School Events:

- Weekly assembly participation – All learners participate in interactive assemblies. Singing and signing promoted in each assembly.
- Annual Prize Giving Ceremonies – Choir performance. Songs will be sung that the whole school have learnt in preparation.
- Summer Festival performance – Learners across the whole school will participate in a wide range of music, art, dance & creative activities in preparation for our Festival. All learners will have accessibility to all singing, signing & dance related performances through their music lessons or via lessons filmed by our Music Lead for teachers to access for their classes.
- Christmas Concert – Immersive interactive Christmas performance. All learners will have an opportunity to engage in our sensory immersive Christmas Concert through song, dance, props, becoming part of the story & script, through lights and sensory

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props and musical instruments. All songs and dances will be added to the drive in a lesson format so all classes can access these to ensure all departments are included.

Community Events:

- Grasmere Garden Party Annual Summer Performance (summer)
- Choir performing at the local elderly care home at Christmas
- Singing Spectacular Local schools choir event
- The Hat Factory performance space (Colour Eye project culmination)
- Woodlands choir has been asked to perform with other local schools in Luton's first Proms in the Park in September 2026

ABRSM Performance Assessments

- Successfully piloted performance assessments using Clarion instruments with ABRSM

Music Projects and collaborations

- English National Opera – 'Finish This & Plant This Seed'. This is led by our Music Lead who is also the SEND Champion for the English National Opera in Luton.
- The Colour Eye music project (2024 and 2025)
- Open Up Music in conjunction with ABRSM – Music Assessments for our Open Orchestra learners.
- Steel Pan in Motion – Carnival & Assembly Performances.
- Singing Spectacular – Annual project our choir works towards singing with local schools in our community.

Partnerships

- English National Opera: Annual project partnership. Music Lead is the SEND Champion for the English National Opera in Luton
- Clarion and ABRSM: Performance assessment pilot
- The Colour Eye: PMLD-focused music project
- Steel Pan in Motion: Weekly instrumental tuition
- AgaSerugo Lugo In Tune Music: Wellbeing-focused sessions
- Luton Music Service
- Music Mark – Woodlands is a Music Mark Awarded School
- Luton Local Partnership – Music Lead is on the partnership programme developing & building on SEND opportunities within the town & BLMK hub for our learners.

In the future

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

Priorities for Development

To expand PMLD and WISERR Curriculum Provision

How:

- CPD sessions delivered by our Music Teacher to build confidence in music delivery.
- Create a rotatory timetable for PMLD & WISERR with our Music Teacher.

Success criteria:

- All students in PMLD and WISERR receive weekly music input

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Responsibility: Music Teacher and Curriculum Leads

Enhance Assessment and Tracking

How:

- Explore frameworks with Music Mark & Sounds of Intent to create an individual assessment tool for Music Curriculum at Woodlands.
- Record more of our learners work throughout the academic year so we have a visual record of both individual & classes progress.
- Explore the possibility of more music performances throughout the year to showcase projects and successes in Music lessons.

Success criteria:

- Student progression in music will be recorded.

Responsibility: Music Lead