Music development plan summary:

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Walpole Cross Keys

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of school music lead	Abi Calaby
Name of trust leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Robin Norman
Name of local music hub	Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub *(https://www.norfolkmusichub.org.uk/site/)*

This document 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. It also gives our vision for our students' musical education. 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.

The full version of our Music Development Plan can be found at https://www.walpolecrosskeysprimary.co.uk

Our Vision for Music Education

Music is fundamental to being a human-being. It incorporates expression and creativity whilst developing key life skills such as teamwork and cooperation and, within the West Norfolk Academies Trust, the subject is one that is valued and embraced for student development, both academically, culturally and socially (the 'whole child').

Music is commonly described as "the universal language" and this is because it is central to almost all cultures and religions throughout the world. Music is all around us, not just on the radio, in the concert halls and at festivals but also in all television and films, adverts and even as background music within shops and restaurants. It is literally everywhere!

However, music in education is about so much more than Rock, Pop, Classical RAP etc. Music is about sounds and how they are put together.

Music is something that is valued within the school, not just for its academic value but for its social and cultural benefits too. We aim to promote a lifelong love of music, both as a performer and listener. In classroom lessons, it is about exploring all the types of music, learning to appreciate how they are created and performed as well as experimenting through practical exercises, both on instruments and using technology. In line with the National Curriculum, all our units of work fall into one or more of the following categories: -

- Performing
- Composing
- Listening and Appraising

Singing and listening exercises are an integral part of lessons developing both musical and confidence skills.

Away from the classroom, West Norfolk Academies Trust provides an instrumental programme with a range of lessons and subsidies available to our pupils to start their journey as musicians. The trust promotes a culture of group playing with a range of instrumental and vocal ensembles within each school, across the trust and in the wider community. This gives clear progression

routes for all our pupils to explore and improve their musicianship skills, whether they wish to follow music as a career, or simply want to enjoy it as a hobby.

Music is a unique subject in that it is scientifically proven to assist in so many areas including improved wellbeing, language development, emotional resilience and empathy. It involves working both independently and collaboratively in groups and this helps develop important life-skills that are transferred into all future careers and pathways. These develop a growth mind-set as well as social skills and self-esteem.

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.

Music is taught as a discreet subject but is also woven through our curriculum through cross-curricular links and enrichment activities. We follow the Charanga Creative Music Scheme. Our Primary Curriculum Overview is available online at https://www.walpolecrosskeysprimary.co.uk

It is an expectation that children are taught a whole class music lesson once a week lasting an hour. Over the course of Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils will explore a variety of musical genres from a range of cultures. They will become familiar with the cultural capital of music, while also making links between their musical learning and their learning in other subject areas. Sequences of learning will build on those taught previously, providing opportunities to consolidate and deepen pupils' skills and knowledge.

As in all areas of our curriculum, we emphasise learning through experience wherever possible, and as such we use Charanga to spark and engage pupils' curiosity by developing their skills in the practical aspects of music and music-making, including singing, playing instruments, improvisation and composition. Through these practical approaches, we also develop our pupils' knowledge and understanding of the theory and history of music, including knowledge of the interrelated dimensions of music, musical notation, key composers and pieces, genres and periods, including the correct use of vocabulary linked to these. We make explicit connections between these two areas of skill and knowledge throughout music lessons, as well as between music and other areas of the curriculum.

We take advantage of opportunities for the pupils to perform both in and out of school, to peers and to wider audiences. We also offer extracurricular activities and clubs,(e.g. school choir) where possible to expand pupils' experiences of music in different contexts.

In addition to the planned curriculum, additional opportunities are provided for those who have a particular interest/aptitude within the subject. All children have the opportunity to learn the recorder in more detail with a peripatetic teacher. Some children will then have the opportunity through peripatetic music lessons within the school focusing on a range of instruments: string, brass and woodwind instruments (through West Norfolk Academies Trust).

The music curriculum is inclusive. We use different support structures and scaffolding so that it is accessible for all children. All our teaching staff work tirelessly to enable all pupils access to achieving within their music lessons.

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.

To supplement our curriculum lessons, we also offer instrumental lessons in our schools through highly experienced peripatetic tutors. We offer lessons on orchestral instruments in our school.

Instruments are provided with no charge and lessons are available through the Trust Primary Instrumental Scheme at a cost of just £25 per term for group tuition. Pupil Premium pupils are not disadvantaged as this is subsidised through our Pupil Premium funding allocation.

These instrumental lessons can lead to examinations through the Associated Board (ABRSM) or Trinity, both of which take place externally.

Students are welcome, and encouraged, to become involved in the wider musical life of the trust through our extensive extra-curricular offering. These currently include:

- Transition Bands and Orchestras
- School Choirs in all schools.
- Termly Workshops/'Play Days' for Primary students.
- Smaller Ensembles

Many of these groups are invited to perform outside of school; including Kings Lynn Corn Exchange and Springwood High School.

Beyond our school group, partnerships with the Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub and the West Norfolk Music Centre provide additional opportunities for our pupils to experience the joy of music-making with friends.

All pupils are encouraged to continue with their musical activities at home.

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.

Our school has a rich, series of concerts and recitals, including a number of 'trust-wide' events that showcase all our schools. For all school and trust-organised events the ticket prices are kept low or free of charge in order to make them accessible for all parents and the local community so that they are able to attend and share in our pupils love of music.

Pupils are also encouraed to engage in community/national events, such as:

- Schools Make Music
- Age of Enlightenment
- Young Voices

We also provide audience opportunities through our working relationship with Classical Music Rocks who send professional musicians into our primary schools. This gives pupils listening experiences outside of the school environment and enhances the musical learning of our students.

In the future

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

Despite providing an excellent level of music provision we are constantly striving to improve for our pupils. In the coming academic year our main foci will be:

- Improve the transition from Year 6 to Year 7, liaising with high schools to support the children and make them ready for music at secondary school.
- Increase our instrumental and singing tuition to introduce individual lessons where appropriate.
- Transition ensembles for primary and early secondary instrumentalists to encourage group playing.
- To engage with parents, inviting them into school for music workshops to boost their knowledge of the music curriculum.
- Build further relationships with the Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub and other local community musical organisations including Classical Music Rocks, the Kings Lynn Festival and West Norfolk Music Centre. These will give our students greater access to musical opportunities both as performers and audience members.

Useful Links

Useful Links to West Norfolk Academies Trust Music Documents

- Primary Curriculum
- Trust Primary SEND Policy
- Trust Full Action Plan

Useful External Links and Documents

- Department of Education guide for parents and young people on getting involved in music
- Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub
- Classical Music Rocks
- King's Lynn Festival
- West Norfolk Music Centre *(opportunities to play together and for lessons)*
- Norfolk Music Hub Ensemble Opportunities *(a 'one-stop' guide to music in Norfolk)*

If there is something you are specifically looking for for your child please ask, we may be able to help.