

Music Development Plan

Walton Primary Academy
2026 - 2027



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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 the school music lead	Rachel Upton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Craig Thorpe (HoS)
Name of local music hub	Wakefield Music Services
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	M&M Productions

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.

At Walton Primary Academy, music education isn't just an art — it's a cornerstone of creativity, collaboration, and self-expression. Every note played and every song sung enriches our pupils’ minds and hearts, nurturing a lifelong love for learning.

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 Walton Primary Academy, we believe that every child is entitled to a high-quality music education regardless of their background, prior experience or ability. We recognise that music is a unique and powerful form of expression which can inspire creativity, build confidence, develop cultural understanding and support emotional wellbeing. Through our music curriculum, we aim to foster a lifelong appreciation of music whilst ensuring pupils develop the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to become confident performers, listeners and creators of music.

Music is delivered through a combination of specialist teaching and high-quality classroom provision, ensuring pupils benefit from both expert subject knowledge and a carefully sequenced curriculum. Our approach is designed to provide all pupils with rich musical experiences whilst ensuring progression in musical knowledge and skills throughout their primary education.

Throughout the academic year, pupils in Years 1 to 6 receive specialist music teaching from Wakefield Music Services for three half terms. These lessons are delivered by a trained music specialist who brings extensive subject expertise and practical musicianship into the classroom. During these lessons, pupils develop their understanding of the key strands of music education, including listening and appraising, singing, performing, improvising, composing and understanding musical notation. Specialist teaching provides pupils with opportunities to experience music-making of a high quality and exposes them to a range of musical styles, genres, traditions and cultures.

As part of this provision, pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 participate in the First Access Programme through whole-class ukulele tuition. This programme ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, regardless of their financial circumstances or prior experience. Through learning the ukulele, pupils develop technical instrumental skills, understanding of rhythm and pitch, knowledge of notation and the ability to perform both independently and as part of an ensemble. The programme also develops important wider skills including perseverance, resilience, concentration and teamwork.

For the remainder of the academic year, music is taught by class teachers using the Kapow Primary Music Scheme. Kapow provides a comprehensive and progressive curriculum which has been carefully designed to build musical knowledge and skills over time. The scheme supports teachers through detailed planning, high-quality resources and clear progression pathways, enabling all staff to deliver engaging and effective music lessons with confidence.

The curriculum is structured around five key areas:

- Performing
- Listening
- Composing
- The history of music
- The inter-related dimensions of music

Through these areas, pupils progressively develop their understanding of pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure and notation. Learning is carefully sequenced so that pupils revisit and deepen prior knowledge as they move through school, enabling them to make meaningful connections between different aspects of musical learning.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, music forms an important part of children's creative development and is delivered through the Kapow EYFS curriculum alongside a wide range of practical musical experiences. Children participate in singing, movement, action songs, rhythm games, listening activities and opportunities to explore instruments and sound-making. These experiences support the development of communication and language, personal and social development, physical coordination, creativity and self-expression. Music also contributes to the development of early listening skills, memory and concentration.

All pupils receive at least one dedicated music lesson each week. This consistent curriculum entitlement ensures that music remains an integral part of school life and enables pupils to build knowledge and skills over time. Lessons are practical, engaging and inclusive, allowing all children to participate and succeed regardless of starting point.

Music is further enhanced through cross-curricular links where appropriate. Staff regularly use music and rhythm to support learning across a range of subjects. Examples include:

Learning and recalling times tables through songs and rhythmic patterns in mathematics.

Supporting vocabulary acquisition and pronunciation in modern foreign languages through singing.

Exploring movement, expression and interpretation through dance and physical education.

Developing understanding of different historical periods and cultures through listening to music from a range of traditions.

Supporting literacy through rhyme, rhythm, performance and spoken language activities.

These opportunities help pupils recognise the relevance of music beyond discrete curriculum lessons and demonstrate how music connects to wider learning and everyday life.

Singing forms a significant part of musical life at Walton Primary Academy. The entire school participates in a weekly singing assembly where pupils learn, rehearse and perform a wide variety of songs. The repertoire is carefully chosen to expose pupils to different genres, traditions and styles of music whilst also supporting key school events, celebrations and themes. Examples include songs linked to Anti-Bullying Week, national commemorations, seasonal celebrations and school values.

Through these regular singing opportunities, pupils develop:

- Pitch accuracy.
- Vocal control.
- Rhythm and timing.
- Performance skills.
- Confidence when performing in front of others.
- An appreciation of collective music-making.

Performance opportunities are embedded throughout the school year and form an important aspect of our music provision. We believe that performing develops confidence, resilience, communication skills and a sense of achievement. Every child has opportunities to perform publicly during their time at Walton Primary Academy.

Performance opportunities include:

- Class assemblies.
- Christmas nativities and productions.
- Key Stage performances.
- End-of-year productions and celebrations.
- Whole-school singing events.
- Special themed events and celebrations.

These experiences allow pupils to apply the skills developed in lessons within authentic contexts and help to foster a positive attitude towards music and performance.

Our music curriculum is designed to be fully inclusive and accessible to all pupils, including those with SEND and disadvantaged pupils. Teachers adapt provision where necessary to ensure all pupils can participate meaningfully in musical activities. Practical approaches, visual supports, repetition and opportunities for collaborative learning help to ensure music remains accessible and enjoyable for all learners.

The impact of our curriculum is seen through pupils' increasing confidence as performers, their growing understanding of musical concepts and vocabulary, their enthusiasm for participating in musical activities and their ability to listen to, evaluate and discuss music thoughtfully. Through a combination of specialist teaching, high-quality curriculum provision and regular performance opportunities, Walton Primary Academy aims to ensure that every pupil leaves primary school with a secure foundation in music and an appreciation of the role music can play throughout their lives.

Part B: Co-Curricular Music

At Walton Primary Academy, we recognise that musical development extends beyond the taught curriculum. We are committed to providing a wide range of enrichment opportunities that allow pupils to develop their musical interests, talents and confidence through participation in music outside of lesson time. These opportunities help to foster a love of music, encourage creativity and provide pupils with memorable experiences that enhance their cultural capital.

Children have access to a variety of co-curricular music opportunities throughout the academic year. These activities are designed to complement and enhance classroom learning whilst providing opportunities for pupils to engage more deeply with music-making and performance.

One of our most popular opportunities is our school Pop Choir. Pupils meet regularly to develop their singing skills, learn a diverse repertoire of songs and prepare for performances both within school and in the wider community. Participation in the choir helps pupils develop confidence, teamwork, vocal technique and performance skills whilst encouraging a lifelong enjoyment of singing.

Pupils also have the opportunity to participate in Young Voices, the world's largest children's choir event. This provides children with the unique experience of rehearsing and performing alongside thousands of pupils from schools across the country in a large-scale arena setting. Participation in Young Voices allows pupils to experience high-quality live music, perform as part of a massed choir and develop confidence through working towards a prestigious public performance.

Walton pupils regularly participate in Waterton's Got Talent, a trust-wide celebration of talent and creativity. This event provides children with an opportunity to showcase their musical abilities, whether through singing, instrumental performance or other musical acts, in front of audiences from across the trust. The event promotes confidence, aspiration and pride whilst celebrating the diverse talents of our pupils.

Children wishing to develop instrumental skills further can access peripatetic music tuition. Lessons are delivered by specialist teachers from Wakefield Music Services as well as Louise Vizard, an experienced independent musician from the local community. Tuition is available either on an individual basis or in small groups, allowing pupils to receive tailored instruction suited to their stage of development and musical interests.

Peripatetic provision enables pupils to:

- Develop instrumental technique and musicianship.
- Build confidence through regular performance opportunities.
- Learn musical notation and theory.
- Develop self-discipline and independent practice habits.
- Experience progression beyond the core curriculum.

The school actively promotes these opportunities to all families and works to ensure that children who demonstrate particular interest or aptitude in music are signposted towards appropriate next steps in their musical development.

We are also proud of our partnerships with musicians and organisations beyond the school community. Walton has established strong links with the D-Day Darlings, providing pupils with unique opportunities to work alongside professional performers. Through these partnerships, children have participated in workshops within school, developing their understanding of vocal performance, stagecraft and the professional music industry.

These experiences have culminated in pupils performing at prestigious venues, including Leeds Civic Theatre, where they participated in performances as part of the D-Day Darlings' UK tour. Such opportunities provide invaluable experiences that many children may not otherwise access and contribute significantly to the development of confidence, aspiration and cultural awareness.

Alongside these structured opportunities, music plays a prominent role in the wider life of the school. Pupils regularly perform during assemblies, celebrations, productions and community events, enabling them to share their talents with others and experience the enjoyment of performing before an audience.

Through our co-curricular music offer, Walton Primary Academy seeks to ensure that all pupils have opportunities to engage with music beyond the classroom, discover new talents, develop existing skills and experience the joy of making music together. We believe these opportunities are fundamental in developing well-rounded, confident and creative young people who value music as an important part of their lives.

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.

At Walton Primary Academy, we believe that rich musical experiences play a vital role in developing children's appreciation of music, broadening their cultural understanding and inspiring future participation in the arts. Alongside our curriculum and co-curricular provision, we provide a wide range of musical experiences that enable pupils to engage with live performance, professional musicians and audiences both within and beyond the school community.

We aim to ensure that all pupils, regardless of background or prior experience, have opportunities to experience music in meaningful and memorable ways throughout their time at Walton Primary Academy. These experiences help children develop confidence, aspiration and an appreciation of the important role that music plays in society and culture.

Music forms an important part of daily and weekly school life. Singing is embedded across the school through our weekly whole-school singing assemblies, where pupils learn and perform a wide range of songs from different genres, cultures and traditions. Singing assemblies provide opportunities for pupils to develop vocal technique, musicality, listening skills and performance confidence whilst fostering a strong sense of community and belonging.

The school has established strong links with the local community through music. Our Pop Choir regularly performs at Walton Manor Care Home, providing valuable opportunities for intergenerational engagement. Residents often request songs they would like to hear, allowing pupils to learn and perform music that is meaningful to their audience. These performances help children understand the

positive impact music can have on others whilst developing empathy, confidence and communication skills. The relationship has become a valued part of our wider music provision and strengthens pupils' sense of community responsibility.

Throughout the year, pupils participate in a range of performances and productions that celebrate their musical development. These include:

- Christmas nativities and productions.
- Key Stage performances.
- End-of-year productions.
- Class assemblies.
- Celebration events.
- Community performances.
- Trust-wide events and showcases.

These opportunities ensure that every child has the chance to perform before an audience and develop the confidence, resilience and presentation skills that come with public performance.

We are committed to providing pupils with access to high-quality live performance experiences. Each year, all children have the opportunity to watch a professional pantomime, either through visits to local theatres or through performances brought directly into school. These experiences expose children to professional musicians, actors and performers whilst helping them develop an appreciation of live theatre and musical storytelling.

Pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 regularly benefit from visits to professional theatre productions at venues such as the Leeds Playhouse. Recent productions have included *Oliver!* and *The Wizard of Oz*. These visits provide children with opportunities to experience high-quality musical theatre, hear live orchestration and singing, and develop their understanding of how music contributes to storytelling, atmosphere and character development.

All pupils in Key Stage 2 are offered the opportunity to participate in Young Voices, the world's largest children's choir event. Children attend after-school rehearsals where they learn a varied repertoire before performing alongside thousands of other young singers in a large arena setting. The school is extremely grateful for the support of our PTA, whose financial contributions enable participation to be heavily subsidised, ensuring that children can take part regardless of financial circumstances. Our aim is to remove barriers to participation and maximise opportunities for all pupils.

Children who receive instrumental tuition are actively encouraged to share and celebrate their achievements with the wider school community. Opportunities are regularly provided for pupils to perform during assemblies, celebration events and school productions. These performances help pupils develop confidence, pride in their achievements and experience performing in front of an audience.

Wakefield Music Services further enriches our provision by providing performances and demonstrations throughout the year. Specialist musicians visit school to showcase different instruments and musical styles, helping to inspire pupils and raise awareness of further opportunities available beyond primary school. These performances often take place during the Christmas period or

Summer Term and provide valuable opportunities for children to experience live music performed by skilled musicians.

The school also seeks opportunities to engage with professional musicians and external organisations. Through our established links with groups such as the D-Day Darlings and other local partners, pupils are able to participate in workshops, rehearsals and performances that extend beyond the classroom and expose them to a range of musical pathways and careers.

Through these musical experiences, Walton Primary Academy aims to nurture children's enjoyment of music, develop their confidence as performers and listeners, and ensure that all pupils leave primary school having experienced a rich and varied musical journey. These opportunities contribute significantly to pupils' cultural capital, personal development and understanding of the wider world, whilst creating lasting memories that inspire future engagement with music and the performing arts.

In the Future

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

At Walton Primary Academy, we are committed to continually developing and enhancing our music provision to ensure that all pupils have access to a rich, inspiring and ambitious musical education. Whilst we are proud of our current offer, we recognise the importance of continually seeking new opportunities that broaden pupils' experiences, raise aspirations and further develop musical engagement across the school.

Over the coming years, we aim to increase pupils' exposure to live music by developing opportunities for professional musicians and performers to visit the school. We believe that experiencing live music performed by skilled musicians can have a powerful impact on children's appreciation of music, inspiring future participation and helping pupils understand the dedication and creativity involved in musical performance. We will actively seek partnerships with local musicians, ensembles and arts organisations to provide workshops, demonstrations and performances for our pupils.

Alongside this, we intend to expand opportunities for children to experience high-quality live music beyond the school environment. We will explore opportunities to organise visits to professional concerts, musical performances and orchestral events, enabling pupils to experience a wider range of musical genres and styles. These experiences will further enrich pupils' cultural capital and support their understanding of music as an important part of the wider cultural landscape.

A key priority is strengthening transition links with our local secondary schools, particularly Crofton Academy and Kettlethorpe High School. We aim to establish opportunities for secondary school ensembles, orchestras, choirs and bands to visit Walton Primary Academy and perform for our pupils. These performances will provide children with positive role models, showcase the opportunities available to them as they progress into secondary education and help raise aspirations for continued musical participation.

We would also like to develop collaborative music workshops with our local secondary schools, allowing pupils to work alongside older musicians and specialist music teachers. Such opportunities would support transition, develop confidence and provide valuable experiences that extend beyond the primary curriculum.

Within school, we will continue to review and strengthen the quality of music teaching and learning. This will include ensuring that curriculum progression remains robust, that teachers continue to feel confident in delivering high-quality music lessons and that pupils have regular opportunities to apply and showcase their learning through performance.

As part of Walton Primary Academy's membership of Waterton Academy Trust, we will continue to strengthen collaboration with music leaders across the Trust. Through shared professional development, curriculum discussions, moderation activities and the exchange of effective practice, we aim to further develop the quality and consistency of music provision for all pupils. Working alongside colleagues from across the Trust will enable us to learn from successful approaches, share resources and identify innovative ways to enhance pupils' musical experiences.

We also intend to explore additional opportunities for pupils to participate in trust-wide musical events and performances, allowing children to perform alongside peers from other schools and experience being part of larger musical ensembles.

Finally, we will continue to review participation in co-curricular and enrichment opportunities to ensure that music remains accessible to all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND. By monitoring engagement and seeking pupil voice, we will ensure that future developments are responsive to pupils' interests and provide opportunities that inspire as many children as possible to engage with music.

Through these developments, our ambition is to ensure that every child at Walton Primary Academy leaves primary school with a love of music, confidence in their own musical abilities and an appreciation of the important role that music can play throughout their lives.

Further Information

Click [here](#) for more information about Young Voices.

Click [here](#) for more information about M&M Theatrical Productions.

Click [here](#) for more information about Kapow Learning Music Scheme of Work

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Click [here](#) to see the Shared Vision and Purpose of Wakefield Music Education Hub.