

Music development plan summary: Wellacre Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss Anita Quigley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Shiner
Name of local music hub	Trafford Music Service

Part A: Curriculum music

Vision and Rationale

“Where words fail, music speaks.” — **Hans Christian Andersen**

Music is a universal language and a unique form of communication. It inspires and motivates students—both as performers and composers—to take creative risks and develop knowledge that can be transferred across many disciplines. At Wellacre, our immersive music curriculum provides rich experiences that enrich students academically, culturally and creatively. It brings students together through shared practice and equips them with the confidence, drive and ambition to achieve and succeed.

“Music is for every single person that walks the planet.” — **Robert Plant**

Music is woven through the histories and cultures of the world. Students explore traditions from many continents and countries such as; North and Southern America, India, Brazil, Indonesia and Jamaica and composers from the 4 main periods of musical history ranging from Gregorian chant to present day. This broad exposure widens horizons and deepens cultural understanding. Students study influential musicians and composers including **Bob Marley, Ravi Shankar, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, John Williams, Hans Zimmer, Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Pachelbel, Henry Purcell, Antonio Vivaldi, Sergei Prokofiev** and many others.

Music is everywhere; in live performance, media, advertising, and the wider creative industries. Our curriculum highlights the diversity of the music industry and its career pathways. Students apply their understanding in contexts such as advertising and game design. The bi-annual **School Show, Performing Arts Showcases** and **Christmas Concerts** provide authentic opportunities to perform and to take on wider roles such as sound engineering and music production.

The Music Department ensures all students build secure foundations in the National Curriculum's three strands: **performing, composing and listening**. Music at Wellacre develops **cultural capital** and strengthens transferable skills. Students improvise, compose and collaborate, developing teamwork, resilience and confidence which are the key attributes for successful transition from school to further study or employment.

Music forms a fundamental part of different cultures within history, giving insights into traditions and ancestral roots that shape each country for what it is today. It also acts as a vehicle for exploring and appreciating different styles and how these have shaped music through the years. Students at Wellacre learn about musicians from all around the world and from different eras, helping to broaden their horizons, awareness and understanding of the wider world.

Intent and purpose

The Music Department aims to ensure that all students are given opportunities to build universal foundations of musical understanding, through the key areas of performance, composition and listening as stated in the National Curriculum. Music in the Wellacre curriculum is an outstanding means by which students develop their cultural capital, which enriches their appreciation across the curriculum and transfers to a wide variety of contexts. Students are encouraged to improvise and explore music through their own compositions and work in groups to engage with their creativity. These activities develop important teamwork skills and confidence which support the whole-school focus on preparation for successful transition from school to college or employment.

The music curriculum for KS3 equips students with the skills and knowledge to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions. These include the works of the great composers and musicians that have shared their repertoire throughout history and thus provide a route to being able to choose and succeed in further qualifications including GCSE which can be studied in KS4.

It also aims for students to learn how to sing and use their voices creatively and compose music on their own and with others. It also equips them with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use available technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.

Students understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions of: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, rhythm and appropriate musical notations.

Our aim at Wellacre is to offer students musical experiences and opportunities which lead to a lifelong appreciation and acceptance of cultures other than their own. The music curriculum is designed so that each lesson includes practical music activities that broaden an approach to learning, stretch their creative imagination and at the same time incorporate and consider their individual needs.

At KS3, the curriculum encompasses a wide-ranging and comprehensive view of music education, with students studying varied topics with the aim of providing a firm grounding in melodic notation, rhythm and music specific vocabulary.

In Year 7, students are introduced to the elements of music at the very beginning of year 7 and begin with a focus on Timbre (different instrumental sounds), Pitch (the range of notes) and Duration (length of notes) as a starting point. The tasks include reading notation, identifying instruments of the orchestra and understanding the difference in note values as well as composing their own melodic and rhythmic pieces. This progresses to paired and small group performance, allowing students to develop a sense of ensemble with an emphasis on unity of pulse and balance between parts. Students then continue to explore musical elements and are encouraged to listen to, analyse and identify a wide range of different pieces from the different periods and disciplines in musical history.

Year 7 Highlights

- Elements of Music: **pitch, duration, notation, C major scale, Pachelbel's Canon.**
- Instruments of the Orchestra: **Timbre, Orchestral families, Britten's *Young Person's Guide*.**
- Baroque & Classical: **Chant, Pachelbel, Vivaldi, Mozart;**
- Programme Music: **Leitmotif, Ostinato, Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*.**
- Romantic & 20th Century: **Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*, Triad chords, binary/ternary form.**
- Film Themes & Superheroes: **leitmotifs in film, John Williams, composition tasks.**

In Year 8, students continue to develop core musical skills as well as deepening their contextual understanding of genres of music through active listening. Tacit knowledge is acquired through all the musical experiences throughout the key stage. For example, students will have a tacit awareness of Blues along with its traditional values and impact on society. Procedural knowledge is developed episodically and returns as strands throughout the projects of KS3, enabling recall practice and the development of long-term memory retrieval.

Areas such as the geography of the keyboard, or pitches on a treble clef are intrinsic parts of several topics, not taught in isolation. Declarative knowledge is used to underpin advanced thinking, and the retrieval of stored information (on factual knowledge such as musical genres, styles and famous musicians) is assessed not only through student approach practical and listening activities, but through recall assessments and questioning.

Year 8 Highlights

- **Blues:** 12-bar blues, improvisation, Muddy Waters, Bessie Smith, Robert Johnson, Eric Clapton.
- **Britpop I & II:** 4-chord songs, ensemble performance, Oasis, Blur, Coldplay.
- **Samba:** Brazilian traditions, carnival music, ensemble drumming.
- **African Polyrhythms:** chants, call-and-response, layered rhythms.
- **Rap & Hip-Hop:** lyric writing, beats, rhyme, Eminem, Black Eyed Peas.

In year 9, students' range of theoretical and skills-based knowledge is broadened through investigative research of film and advert music. Performance, composition, and listening are focused upon and help to develop students' use of music specific terminology.

Students have the opportunity to take music further at the end of KS3 and can opt to take GCSE in Music which encompasses skills learnt throughout KS3 and extends listening and analysis skills, world traditions, the history of music and understanding of music theory in more in-depth detail.

All students are expected to follow the music curriculum at Wellacre. The curriculum is research informed including an OFSTED subject review and a National Curriculum and Model Music Curriculum. Two lessons per fortnight are timetabled for music and lessons are adapted to meet the needs of all students so that they know more, can do more and remember more.

Year 9 Highlights

- **Reggae:** rhythm emphasis, global impact, Bob Marley, UB40, Musical Youth.
- **Britpop III & IV:** 2000s–2010s genres, song writing, industry roles.
- **Film & TV Music:** leitmotifs, jingles, marketing and product identity.
- **Indian Music:** raga, tala, traditional instruments, Ravi Shankar, Norah Jones.
- **Gamelan & 20th Century:** pentatonic scales, minimalism, serialism, aleatoric music, Schoenberg, Steve Reich.

KS3 Music MTP's 2025/2026 https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gsb7hYllzH-X-YBRAN-CnLZf3ti0oVyK/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=101069385677915860719&rtpof=true&sd=true

KS3 Knowledge Guides

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13MKxLrkEjbsbMDlpKdEBjbgzoBthQZBP?usp=drive_link

KS3 Music Curriculum overview

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yEzxpGp7YdRviYqeLpZ8Nm-](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yEzxpGp7YdRviYqeLpZ8Nm-rHlhKsdKp/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=101069385677915860719&rtpof=true&sd=true)

[rHlhKsdKp/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=101069385677915860719&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yEzxpGp7YdRviYqeLpZ8Nm-rHlhKsdKp/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=101069385677915860719&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Part B: Co-curricular music

There are a number of opportunities for students to develop their vocal skills and learn to play instruments as part of our extra-curricular instrumental programme.

Through the use of instruments and by providing opportunities for performance such as the Bi-annual School show, Performing Arts Showcases and Christmas concerts, students are able to see music and the enjoyment of the roles of performer and audience as relevant and integral in modern society. They are encouraged to pursue areas of music that interest them and that can play a part in the musical life of the school and wider community.

Students are introduced to our instrumental tuition programme on entering year 7 and a letter is distributed on request outlining the services that our local music hub offers, if a student shows an interest in learning. An array of instrumental tuition is available for students to pursue and introductory practical lessons carried out on rotation basis to ignite a desire to sustain lessons on a one to one or small group basis. This then has a knock-on effect with regard to events both in

and out of school when students feel confident enough to share their progress through performance.

At Wellacre, we offer an eclectic array of musical opportunities and activities throughout the school week to incorporate every pupil and ensure that music is always accessible. Our extension to the school day with an addition of an extra period, enables students to choose an activity where they can learn new skills and gain further knowledge as an addition to their learning journey. Year group bands, choir and keyboard club, are just a few of the activities on offer and pupils are able to rehearse at break and lunchtimes throughout the week. Students can have instrumental lessons through our local music service.

The school has a number of partnership links that support the music curriculum which includes; Trafford music service, Trafford subject link meetings and Trafford music Hub. Links of which are below;

<https://www.traffordmusicservice.co.uk/>

[Secondary ensembles to promote to schools.pdf](#)

There are a number of opportunities for students to engage in Co - curricular music at Wellacre. Lunch time and after school clubs include, Y7, 8 and 9 choir, Y8 Keyboard club and small group lessons and Y9 and 10 Band.

Part C: Musical experiences

At Wellacre, we encourage students to become actively involved in events throughout the academic year. For our KS4 students who study repertoire from the 4 main periods of musical history, exposure to live musicians and performances is an essential addition to their learning journey. Manchester's own Halle Orchestra perform an annual concert each year and showcase pieces that have been chosen by exam boards for the listening and appraisal component, to equip students who are studying music at that level with a real live experience and a chance to carry out in depth analysis.

Our KS3 choir is involved in two main musical performances during the year. The first is the Christmas carol service which as well as the choir, also involves a number of individual and group instrumental performances. The bi-annual school musical follows on in February of each alternate year, giving students an opportunity to participate in a number of musical roles including; instrumental, choir, solo and group performances.

Towards the end of our academic year, we host a co-curricular day where students are involved in a multitude of different activities; Samba drumming and dance workshops have been a highlight this year which has inspired our pupils to further their experience by pursuing individual lessons. Many of our students are involved in musical groups outside of school and perform regularly at events throughout the year, in particular, one of our students recently performed with the 'Arctic Monkeys' and is looking to record some of his own songs. They also study towards

ABRSM instrumental examinations and Rock School qualifications, taking their skills to the next level and beyond. Students are always encouraged at Wellacre, to take their learning further and explore the musical opportunities that are in abundance in and around Greater Manchester.

In the future

KS4 currently offers GCSE Music and equips students with the skills to further their educational journey onto a multitude of different musical pathways and opportunities. The course also enables those students with advanced instrumental and performance technique, to access a course that lends itself to promoting their already well-established skills.

At Wellacre, we are in the heart of a thriving community that offers an abundance of opportunities for our students. We have several primary feeder schools within our geographical peripheral area and are always encouraging students to continue with their instrumental lessons and maintain that consistent discipline of commitment and perseverance when they continue their musical journey at Wellacre.