

Music development plan summary:

Detail information Academic Year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of school music lead	Sue Bathurst
Name of SLT member with responsibility for music (if different)	Amy Penfold
Name of local music hub	GWS Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation (if relevant)	

“Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them – a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.” – Gerald Ford

This is a summary of the music education delivery at Marden Vale Academy. This is accessed by all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and outlines 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 enable the children to foster a love of music and to support our pupils’ music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

We teach music weekly in each year group, we always aim to teach formal music lessons for the statutory hour each week. Alongside this the children develop their singing skills and techniques in a weekly singing assembly. Our class teachers are experts in adapting our curriculum to meet the needs of children with additional needs and/or disabilities, and these bespoke adaptations ensure that music can be enjoyed by all. Our music curriculum is informed by the national and model music curriculum, delivered via schemes of work written by Kapow and made bespoke by our Music lead. Children can learn, play, and hone their skills in their weekly music lessons, but it is our goal that music is a golden thread weaving throughout our school curriculum. The children have access to class sets of recorders, ukuleles, glockenspiels and a huge variety of quality untuned percussion instruments. Years 1, 3 and 5 all focus on learning the recorder (led by Class teachers) and Years 2, 4, 6 and our older children in the resource base learn the Ukelele (led by a peripatetic teacher). This ensures our children all leave Marden Vale having experienced both a wind and stringed instrument. We are able to access specialist instrumental teaching for whole year groups and offer individual tuition through links with the GWS Music Hub.

Part B: Co-curricular music

We provide other opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles, and bands, and consider how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum. We can offer peripatetic music tuition in voice, violin, piano, trumpet, flute, keyboard, guitar, and saxophone via GWS Hub. Children have taken up the offer of vocal tuition privately at our school. We endeavour to be supportive of all children studying for formal gradings with The

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and offer timetable variations where necessary to help with these. We signpost children to live music opportunities within the local area. Our pupil premium grant funding is always targeted and spent on a bespoke basis which includes, where requested, funding lessons or instrument hire for children wanting to access such.

Part C: Musical experiences

This focusses on other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts, nativities, I Sing Pop experiences across the Trust in Year 4 and shows, and trips to professional concerts. As mentioned above, all children take part in a weekly singing assembly. During the year we produce musical shows for parents which usually takes the form of a small-scale musical for younger children at Christmas and an end of year musical production for key stage 2. We also sing as a whole school in church for important festivals such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Our Summer music concert also allows classes to show case their talents and provides more vital opportunities for performing. We are taking part in Young Voices in 2025. This will enable our Year 5 and 6 children to collaborate with many thousands of other young people in Birmingham Arena working with a live band and other song and dance artists. We are currently in discussion with our local secondary school to develop a link school musical collaboration. This will take the form of a joint concert across the key stages. All performances put on by the school are free for parents.

Staff take part in regular music development in staff meetings led by the Music lead and other visitors from the Trust. In addition the school takes part in musical workshops with colleagues across the trust and within our school clusters.

In the future

Although the school uses Kapow as a vehicle it is essential that this is personalised to make the learning bespoke to the needs of each cohort. A bespoke Curriculum has been developed in the last year and is now accessed by all children. Training and upskilling staff is a vital part of this journey, ensuring staff a confident in their ability to teach each aspect of the music curriculum.

At Marden Vale we recognise that music is a powerful tool and, used effectively, can enable children to shine and thrive in a multitude of ways. As such we aim to continually develop our understanding of how music can make a difference and what we, the educators, need to do to ensure the best possible musical provision. We want to be proud of the impact music has on all stake holders in the Marden Vale community and will continually strive for its success.