

Music Development Plan Summary: Widden Primary School Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs S Wathen
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Gloucestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark

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.

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.

In line with the National Curriculum for Music (Key Stages 1–3), our curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review, and evaluate music spanning diverse historical periods, styles, genres, and traditions, including works by prominent musicians and composers.
- Develop vocal skills through singing, create and compose music individually and collaboratively, learn a musical instrument, utilise technology effectively, and access opportunities for continued musical advancement.
- Explore and understand musical creation, production, and communication through interrelated dimensions such as pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, and formal notation.

INTENT: Guided by the non-statutory music teaching guidance ([Key Stages 1–3](#)), Widden Primary School is dedicated to fostering a comprehensive musical understanding through listening, singing, performance, evaluation, analysis, and composition across various genres, traditions, and historical eras. We cultivate musical curiosity, promote respect and appreciation for all musical forms, and recognise the personal value of musical expression while supporting each child in advancing their individual skills.

Music in Early Years (EYFS): Musical learning is integrated into the Foundation Stage curriculum via the Expressive Arts: Being Imaginative area of the 2014 Framework, aligned with Early Learning Goals. Music enhances personal and social growth, while 'Counting Songs' support early numeracy and multicultural songs broaden world understanding. Reception pupils follow the Charanga Music programme alongside the rest of the school, engaging in adult-led and child-initiated play centered on nursery rhymes and action songs.

Inclusion & SEND: We take a proactive approach to eliminating learning barriers so that pupils with SEND can participate fully and express themselves in music lessons. Clear instruction and targeted scaffolding empower all children to achieve success.

Curriculum & Planning: Delivery through the Charanga music framework provides a structured sequence (review, remember, deepen, apply) that ensures active engagement in singing, listening, playing, performing, and evaluating. These activities extend into weekly singing assemblies, concerts, and instrumental instruction. Classroom lessons incorporate glockenspiels and varied percussion instruments, teaching musical vocabulary to enable pupils to dissect, analyse, and appreciate how music is constructed.

In partnership with the Gloucestershire Music Hub, Key Stage 2 pupils experience whole-class instrumental tuition in brass, ukulele, and samba percussion. Learning these instruments introduces notation reading, sound production techniques, and composition, deepening overall musical comprehension.

In accordance with the [Model Music Curriculum](#), all pupils receive at least one hour of weekly music instruction. Recently, Year 5 participated in a whole-class Dementia Choir project led by a specialist tutor, extending their learning beyond the core term and performing for parents, the school, and the academy Summer Showcase.

Assessment & Development: Music assessment follows a plan-do-review framework utilising ongoing Assessment for Learning (AfL), shared learning objectives, and self/peer evaluations. To track progression diagnostically, initial and final unit lessons are recorded on video. Pupils demonstrating strong interest are signposted to external opportunities such as Rocksteady. Additionally, explicit musical vocabulary instruction is reinforced using age-appropriate explanations and Widget visual symbols.

Part B: Co-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.

Pupils across Key Stage 2 have access to peripatetic tuition in brass and string instruments. Tutors from the Gloucestershire Music Hub deliver these one-to-one and small group sessions, with complimentary tuition and instrument hire provided for pupils receiving pupil premium support.

For students interested in band performance, Rocksteady lessons offer collaborative group instrumental sessions designed to build confidence. Additionally, during the Summer Term, Year 6 classes participate in whole-class ensemble tuition (WCET) focusing on music technology. Delivered by Music Works Gloucester (part of the Gloucestershire Music Hub), this unit allows pupils to compose original music using modern software alongside their regular music lessons.

Co-curricular vocal opportunities include the Young Voices choir, open to all KS2 pupils. Rehearsals focus on preparing for the Young Voices concert series as well as festive repertoire.

performed at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and across the local community, which also aids in fundraising for transport costs.

To broaden musical engagement, a group of KS2 pupil premium students recently visited the Cheltenham Music Festival. During the event, pupils were introduced to works such as *The Lark Ascending*, *Danse Macabre*, and *The Comedians*, alongside practical interactive workshops trying various orchestral instruments.

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.

In addition to planned curriculum time for music, children participate in additional musical experiences—as a whole school or individually—throughout the year to contribute to overall musical planning and time allocation.

Across all key stages, pupils have opportunities to experience live musical performances courtesy of the London Sinfonietta or Gloucestershire Music hub and take part in productions such as Christmas plays and nativities.

- EYFS pupils perform a Summer Showcase featuring songs learned throughout the year accompanied by the glockenspiel.
- Assembly visits from Rock Steady allow pupils to learn key life skills, including teamwork, confidence, and social skills.
- Cross-curricular activities in subjects such as Maths and PE enable pupils to apply and experience music within real-life and academic contexts.
- The school participates in Young Voices, a primary school singing showcase held at Resorts World Arena in Birmingham, while encouraging musicians and singers to showcase their talents in school plays and performances.
- Participation in World Music Day allows each class to focus on a chosen country and record a song from or by an artist of that country.
- Specialist workshops delivered by local musicians include Samba drumming for KS2 and ukulele workshops for EYFS and KS1.

Music is embedded into daily school life through weekly assemblies, singing assemblies, classroom routines, and special celebrations, supported actively by parents and carers through events and home learning.

In the future

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

- CPD and capacity planning – plan CPD for classroom teachers to increase confidence in delivering Music in the classroom
- Links with Music Hub – to support recruitment of children for instrumental tuition
- Focus on Music vocabulary and embed the explicit learning into weekly Music lessons.
- Obtain Music Mark accreditation for 26/27

Further information (optional)

Continue to maintain links and promote the work of Music Works Gloucester

Further and maintain links with other GLT Music Leads. GLT Music progression Document

[w](#) GLT Primary Music Progression document.docx

Maintain links with Gloucester Music Hub who have now combined with Swindon and Wiltshire Councils.