

Music development plan summary: Waldegrave School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	01/09/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	30/06/26
Name of the school music lead	Charlotte O'Brien
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Richmond Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

Our curriculum intention and curriculum plan for key stage 3 can be found here on our website [Music Curriculum Plan](#).

Key Stage 3:

All students at key stage 3 receive a one hour, weekly whole class music lesson. The curriculum for this has been developed to meet the needs of our students in line with the model music curriculum (March 2021) as well as research papers into the effective delivery of music in the Key Stage 3 classroom.

Key Stage 4:

Approximately 16% of key stage 4 students select music as one of their GCSE options at Waldegrave. This is significantly above the current national average. Students are taught the Edexcel syllabus for GCSE with 5 hourly lessons a fortnight in Y10 and 4 hours a fortnight at Y11. In line with the DfE's guidance for class numbers in practical subjects, we split the students into smaller classes to facilitate the individual teaching requirements of the course.

Key Stage 5:

Approximately 4% of the key stage 5 students at Waldegrave select A Level music. This is significantly above the current national average. Students are taught the Eduqas A Level syllabus with 9 hours teaching a fortnight in Y12 and 8 hours teaching a fortnight in Y13. Many of our students continue their musical studies at undergraduate level either at university or a conservatoire.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Students have the opportunity to take a one-to-one lesson with one of our team of 25 visiting music teachers on a full range of instruments including voice. They have the option of completing graded exams throughout the year in their instrument including musical theatre exams for the vocal students. Funding for pupil premium students to access these lessons is available on application through the school.

In addition we run free lunchtime and after school music clubs which are open to all students of all abilities to attend. We have 2 orchestras, a swing band, ukulele group, samba band, 3 choirs and 2 string quartets. Students are also invited to form their own bands with rehearsal space made available after school for them. A specialist mentor will be available on a Friday afternoon to work with our bands.

The school also hosts the Saturday School and evening ensemble rehearsals run by the Richmond Music Trust. A cost is associated with these opportunities but bursaries are available to support those students that are eligible.

Part C: Musical experiences

Each key stage 3 year group will receive one music assembly a year to support one of the taught topics on their curriculum.

Autumn Term

School Production – My Fair Lady

Live Lounge – small student groups/solos

Carol Service – held at a local church featuring all the school choirs

Winter Festival – held at school featuring all the school ensembles plus drama and dance items

Key Stage 3 students in Y7 will participate in a drop down day trip to see the Lion King and Y8 will take part in an African Culture drop down day involving a Nigerian drumming workshop

Key Stage 4 students will take part in an ensemble workshop day to support their preparation for this part of the syllabus.

Key Stage 5 students will be taken to concerts to support the different area of studies covered on the course. They will also have a series of masterclasses focusses on areas such as performance anxiety and writing for voices. The school will be hosting an A Level Music Conference for internal/external students supporting composing in the western classical style let by Newcastle University.

Spring Term:

Live Lounge – small student groups/solos

Women in Music Conference – in collaboration with Richmond Orchestra, key stage 4 and key stage 5 students will take part in conference hosted at the school exploring female composers from the 20th Century.

Summer Term:

Orchestra Tour to Sintra – as part of an ongoing project with 5 other countries from Europe all associated through twinning, students from the Waldegrave orchestra will be hosted this year in the Portuguese town of Sintra to form the European Youth Orchestra

Key Stage 5 students will be taken to concerts to support the different area of studies covered on the course.

Summer Festival - held at school featuring all the school ensembles plus drama and dance items

In the future

Expansion of our instrumental and vocal provision by setting the school up as an exam centre for one of the exam boards.

Initiatives to promote uptake of shortage instruments and orchestral playing opportunities across the borough

Outreach opportunities to support our local primary schools through concerts and workshops.

Develop our music technology facilities to cater for a broader spectrum of students wanting to continue their studies at GCSE and A Level.