

Music development plan summary: Wade Deacon Trust (Halewood Academy)

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 – 2026
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Cecilia Costello
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Gemma Walsh
Name of local music hub	MAPAS
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our Trust and 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 Trust and school offers and who we work with to support our pupils’ music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

The music curriculum across the Trust is ambitious, fulfils the National Curriculum and also allows us to place emphasis on the key skills we feel will ready students for the 21st Century Music Industry. A key focus in all schools is about removing any barriers to entry and ensuring that all students, irrelevant of socioeconomic standing, starting point or any special educational need or disability, have the opportunity to experience a full and fulfilling curriculum. One aspect of this is the vast array of peripatetic music lesson opportunities we have across the Trust, all of which are paid for by school, meaning that any child who shows a desire to learn and an interest has an opportunity to be exposed to specialist instrument teachers.

Through the curriculum, students have opportunities to develop their love of singing, playing a variety of instruments, using technology to make, arrange and compose music and then underpinning their learning with theoretical knowledge. Again, a specific focus is given to how learning links into future education and career opportunities, preparing students with the skills to become life-long musicians and creators within the music industry. Within all schools, an expectation that students

perform and showcase their learning within lessons is common practice. Practical application of skills and knowledge is a key aspect of each curriculum map.

Starting with the 2024-2025 academic year, we have aligned qualifications across the Trust to enhance the collaboration potential, allowing us to work together to further improve the outcomes of students within Music. This alignment allows some flexibility for each school to choose between delivering Eduqas GCSE Music or BTEC Music Practice to their cohorts, depending on which course better suits the aspiration and attainment of students within the class. Alongside unification of qualifications comes a drive across the Trust to increase the number of students choosing Music as a KS4 option. To achieve this, leaders of Music are working together closely to further enhance the KS3 curriculum, to increase wider opportunities for students and to use external providers and visitors to promote Music.

In September 2023, the Trust appointed a Curriculum Expert Lead for Music who has been working with the schools across the Trust to drive forward this collaboration and ensure that joined up thinking can help further develop the Music offering for all students. As part of that work, the model music curriculum (March 2021) has been a consideration when reviewing each school's KS3 curriculum and also the wider aspects of Music within schools. We are acutely aware that the curriculum delivered to students in lessons is only one aspect of what creates a thriving Music education within schools and we are proud of the work that is taking place across the Trust outside of curriculum time.

School specific information:

Number of hours of Music per fortnight in KS3: 1

Specific curriculum content: Please refer to our curriculum overview and map documents on the school website

Part B: Co-curricular music

Across the Trust, there are a wide range of extra-curricular offerings within Music that allow students to enhance their learning, experience something new and different and greater develop performance skills and opportunities.

These opportunities include established choirs and vocal ensemble groups, school 'rock' bands, woodwind ensembles, string groups, keyboard clubs and even a kazoo group. As with all aspects of Music across the Trust, the ambition of extra-curricular is to be inclusive and to ensure there is 'something for everyone', irrespective of previous exposure to Music.

In addition to this, we are proud of the variety of opportunities that students have to go and watch live performances. This includes visits to local theatres and venues, trips

further afield to places like London and even visits to New York, which we are planning to revive in a cross-Trust way in the coming years. All of these experiences allow students to see how Music is applied in a real-world, professional environment, helping to raise aspirations and see how Music could be a potential future career for them. These opportunities are often subsidised and there is consideration given to providing support and funding to disadvantaged students to remove barriers.

Our peripatetic offering across the Trust is strong. We have staff teaching across the different instrument families and for 2025-2026 the time given for peripatetic lessons across the Trust will be increasing. As previously mentioned, we are proud that our lessons are free-at-entry for all students and this also includes support where needed in providing instruments, music, resources and examinations for students. Where external examinations are an appropriate and wanted opportunity for students, these are fully supported by schools.

All schools actively look for opportunities to bring in external providers, such as local colleges and higher education establishments (LIPA, Cronton, Riverside etc) and also other organisations and groups that can further raise the aspirations of students and expose them to new opportunities. Alumni visits are also common practice across the Trust, again showing students the possibilities for students post-secondary.

Across all schools in the Trust, leaders of Music have created welcoming environments for students to practice and rehearse, collaborate with other young musicians and to extend their learning beyond the end of the school day. This inclusive and nurturing environment can be seen as all Music departments are busy and bustling with students during social times and after school.

School Specific Information:

Number of peripatetic music tutors for 2025-2026:6

Number of hours of music tuition per week for 2025-2026: 29

Number of students who have benefitted from music tuition during the 2024-2025 academic year: 112

**List of extra-curricular clubs / events planned for the 2025-2026 academic year:
Choir, Breakfast Club, Lunchtime Open Practice**

List any notable partnerships or external companies/visitors that are commonly used:

Part C: Musical experiences

Opportunities for students to showcase their talents and the progress they are making are common, regular and varied to maximise the number of students who can perform.

As the culture of performing in lessons is well established, all schools in the Trust see how the opportunities for students to perform in front of bigger audiences can help develop confidence, further enhance skills and develop moments of real celebration within the school.

Performance opportunities include performances in assemblies, full-scale productions, concerts and also opportunities for students to perform outside of school, either at local theatres or part of events with other organisations.

As well as individually planned trips throughout the year at each school, steps have also been taken for the Trust to start planning cross-school trips, allowing for the price to be reduced for each student, additional opportunities for students to meet like-minded peers from across the Trust and for teachers to also collaborate further.

This cross-Trust work extends to intentions during the 2025-2026 year to create at least 1 cross-Trust performance opportunity, allowing us to showcase the fantastic talent of students across the schools. This is an event that all leaders of Music will contribute to and again shows the way that we are working together to further promote and celebrate Music in our Trust.

School Specific Information:

Concerts / Performance planned for 2025-2026 and which year group(s) will be involved: Pantomime (students from all years can be involved), Halewood's Got Talent, Knowsley Christmas Concert, Carol Singing at the Arncliffe Centre.

Cost to parents/carers to attend these events: Free

In the future

As a Trust we have ambitious plans for Music moving forward. Whilst we already have a strong foundation of Music learning and opportunity in each school, we look to further improve this year on year and want Music and Performing Arts to be the beating heart of our schools, both in relation to curriculum and wider opportunities. To achieve this, we plan to do the following as part of our 3-year development plan:

- Further enhancing the peripatetic opportunities and allowing for cross-Trust peripatetic staff in the future to ensure that standards and vision across all schools is shared. This will also allow more chances for performance collaboration both with KS4 cohorts and also extra-curricular performances.

- Create more cross-Trust opportunities for performances, trips and visits and external visitors, sharing good practice and increasing the number of students who can access these opportunities.
- Further enhance the KS3 curriculum to establish a commonality of core knowledge and skills to ensure high aspirations for all students. This will include consistent curriculum time in each school and collaboration with assessment to ensure that students are hitting the milestones we know they need to be successful in the future
- Look for opportunities to increase the time that students study music in school, either through increases in curriculum time or further out of lesson opportunities for students
- Further develop the careers and further education guidance to ensure that more students from across the Trust are accessing Music training and education post-Secondary

School Specific Priorities

- **Priority 1: Develop Extra-Curricular opportunities leading to increased uptake at KS4.**
- **Priority 2: Continuous review of curriculum design at KS3 to support learning at KS4 and positive student outcomes.**
- **Priority 3: Provide opportunities for students to enjoy musical experiences for their well being in and outside of the classroom.**