# Music development plan summary: Hamilton School

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| ****1. Introduction**** All schools should have a Music Development Plan from the academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from the academic year 2024-25.  This document outlines Hamilton School’s approach to delivering high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music, and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the National Plan for Music Education. As an autism-specific school, our music curriculum is designed to be accessible, engaging, and supportive of our students' diverse needs, ensuring that all learners benefit from the power of music. |

## Overview

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| Detail | Information |
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2024-25 |
| Date this summary was published | 12th March 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | 9th March 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Gabriella Fokti |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) |  |
| Name of local music hub | Services for Education |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) |  |

This is a summary of how Hamilton 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

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| 1. Hamilton School provides a structured and inclusive music curriculum across all key stages. Music is delivered every other half term, with pupils receiving one hour per week of dedicated music lessons, ensuring consistency and progression in learning. Our curriculum is designed to be accessible for autistic learners and is informed by elements of the **Model Music Curriculum (March 2021)** while being adapted to meet the specific needs of our pupils.  ****Music Curriculum by Key Stage****  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Stage** | **Autumn** | **Spring** | **Summer** | | **Reception** | Sound Exploration | Exploring Instruments | Rhythm and Movement | | **KS1** | Expressive Singing | Introduction to Instrument Families | Dance and movement | | **LKS2** | Dynamics & Tempo | Simple Notation | Musical Games | | **UKS2** | Storytelling through Music | Instrument Families | History of Music | | **Year 7** | Stomp and Sing | Folk Music | Music and emotions | | **Year 8** | West African Music | World Music | Film Music |  ****Key Features of Our Music Provision**** Hamilton School is committed to:   * Providing **timetabled curriculum music** of at least one hour each week for all key stages every other half term. * Ensuring **access to instrumental lessons**, including percussion, keyboards, and digital music-making tools. * Offering a **school choir**, which runs as a lunchtime club for students who are interested in participating. * **Introducing a termly school performance**, primarily class-based and designed to be inclusive and accessible for all students. * **Providing opportunities to enjoy live music performances at least once a year**  ****Our Music Education Approach**** Hamilton School’s music provision is designed to be fully inclusive, ensuring that all pupils, regardless of their communication, sensory, or learning profile, can engage meaningfully with music. Our approach includes:   * **Specialist Adaptations**: Use of Attention Autism strategies, PECS communication, sensory-based experiences, and structured turn-taking activities. * **Technology Integration**: Use of Interactive Whiteboards, iPads, GarageBand, MusiQuest, and other digital tools to enhance accessibility and creative composition. * **Multisensory Engagement**: Encouraging participation through sound exploration, movement, and hands-on instrument use. * **Collaborations with Music Organisations**: Working with Services for Education to provide enriching experiences and specialist support.  ****Access and Inclusion**** Hamilton School ensures that all music activities are accessible to autistic learners and those with additional needs through:   * **Structured visual supports**, including PECS and visual schedules. * **Sensory-friendly adaptations**, such as quiet spaces for listening and movement-based music engagement. * **Alternative communication methods**, allowing all students to express themselves musically.  ****Singing and Instrumental Learning****  * Singing is embedded across all key stages, with pupils encouraged to participate at their comfort level. * Pupils have opportunities to play percussion instruments, keyboards, and digital music tools in a structured environment. * Whole-class instrumental learning occurs where appropriate, using adapted resources to support engagement.  ****Partnerships & External Support****  * We are working with a local music hub, **Services for Education**, who provide 1:1 sessions for a select group of pupils. * **Open Orchestra sessions** provide an inclusive, live music experience for a select group of pupils. |

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## Part B: Co-curricular music

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| At Hamilton School, co-curricular music opportunities complement the formal curriculum, providing pupils with additional ways to engage with music beyond lesson time. These activities support skill development, social interaction, and creative expression in a structured yet enjoyable environment.  **Choir and Singing Opportunities**   * The **lunchtime choir** was introduced this year and is open to all pupils who wish to participate. * Sessions focus on singing for enjoyment, building confidence, and developing vocal skills. * Pupils explore rhythm-based activities and familiar songs in a supportive setting.   **Instrumental Opportunities**   * While we do not currently offer additional instrumental lessons outside of curriculum music, pupils have access to percussion, keyboards, and digital music tools during lesson time. * **1:1 instrumental tuition** is available through **Services for Education** for a select group of pupils.   **Rehearsals and Performances**   * Pupils participate in class-based performances and school-wide musical experiences. * **Open Orchestra** provides pupils with opportunities to engage with live music and performance in an inclusive setting. * Our **termly class-based performances** allow pupils to showcase their musical learning in a way that is accessible and meaningful to them. |

## Part C: Musical experiences

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| Hamilton School provides a range of musical experiences that allow pupils to engage with music beyond the classroom.  **Annual Musical Events**   * **Pantomime** – Each year, the school hosts a pantomime where children are encouraged to sing and join in with the performance. * **Common Ground Art Exhibition** – Last year, our focus was on music, and pupils worked with two external artists to create artwork that was displayed at the **Midlands Arts Centre (MAC).**   **Live Music and Performance Opportunities**   * Pupils participate in or watch performances as part of school-wide events. * **Open Orchestra Performance** – Since the launch of Hamilton School Open Orchestra in 2018, our students have taken part in events such as:   + **SFE Youth Proms** on the Symphony Hall stage   + **SFE Chamber Music Festival** (both live and virtual)   + **Summer Sounds showcase** at MAC Arts Centre. Pupils have the opportunity to experience live music as an audience and engage with professional musicians through these enriching events.   All musical experiences at Hamilton School are designed to be **inclusive and accessible**, ensuring that every child can participate in a way that suits their needs. |

## In the future

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| Hamilton School is committed to continuously improving and expanding its music provision. Our key future developments include:   * **Acquiring More Musical Instruments:** Expanding our collection of instruments to provide greater access and variety for pupils across all key stages. * **Expanding Live Music Opportunities**: We are exploring further opportunities for pupils to experience live music and performances, ensuring accessibility and engagement for all. * **Strengthening External Collaborations**: We aim to continue working with external artists, organisations, and **Services for Education** to bring high-quality musical experiences to our pupils. * **Enhancing Open Orchestra**: Developing our Open Orchestra programme, allowing more pupils to take part in external performances and engage with live music. * **Improving Access to Music Technology**: Increasing the use of digital tools such as GarageBand and MusiQuest to support creative composition and accessibility for all learners. * **Exploring Additional Extra-Curricular Music Opportunities**: Identifying new music clubs or activities that align with our pupils' needs and interests. * **Investing in Staff Training and Development**: Ensuring continued specialist training in music education for autistic learners to enhance lesson delivery and engagement.   Our plans will be reviewed annually to align with our pupils' evolving needs and the national priorities for music education. Hamilton School is committed to expanding and enhancing its music provision in the coming years. |