

Music development plan summary: The Meadows School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 – 2026
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Martin Goodwin (Culture and Arts Curriculum Lead)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Theodora Papaspyrou (Deputy Head)
Name of local music hub	Sandwell Music Service (SIPS)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Open University

This summary outlines how our school delivers music education to all pupils through three key areas: curriculum music, co-curricular activities, and musical experiences. It also outlines our future priorities for strengthening music provision. This information aims to help pupils, parents, and carers understand our music education offerings and the partners we collaborate with to support our pupils.

The Meadows School is a large special school catering to 360 pupils aged 11-19 years across Key Stages 3, 4, and 5. We provide education for a diverse range of pupil needs, including Autism, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties, and Moderate Learning Difficulties. Our approach ensures that every pupil accesses music through a curriculum and pathway suited to their developmental stage and learning profile.

For more information about our school, please visit our School Website.

This Music Development Plan, created in September 2025 by the newly appointed Culture and Arts Lead, has been shaped through staff consultation and the Sandwell Music Service (SIPS) audit. It identifies key areas for growth and sets out our commitment to providing every pupil with high-quality, inclusive musical experiences.

Part A: Curriculum music

The school is currently developing the Music Curriculum for pupils across all pathways.

The school is developing an inclusive and progressive Music Curriculum that enables all pupils, across every pathway, to access high-quality musical learning and experiences.

A) Engagement for Life Pathway (PMLD) KS3, KS4, KS5

Within the Engagement for Life Pathway (EFL), music is holistically embedded to support the development of communication and interaction, cognition and learning, physical and sensory development and social and emotional development. Music is delivered through a **thematic approach** that broadens and enhances opportunities for personal growth.

B) Foundations for Life (Complex Needs, Autism) / Learning for Life (Severe Learning Difficulties) / Options for Life (Moderate Learning Difficulties) - KS3 & KS4

At Key Stages 3 & 4 within Foundations for Life (FFL) Learning for Life (LFL) and Options for Life Pathways music is taught as part of a **thematic topic-based approach** that incorporates Music, Art, Dance, Drama, History and Geography. The topic-based approach provides a range of cultural experiences so that pupils are prepared for life, and they can participate in the world around them. **Themes** include: - A Symphony of Colour, Race Through the Decades and Ready, Steady, Grow. The Culture and Arts lead is creating **Changara** Units, and the platform is being used to support staff in delivering inclusive music opportunities. The topic curriculum is currently being mapped in relation to the **Model Music Curriculum** to ensure appropriate development of music and identify gaps in provision.

From September 2026, KS4 shall have the opportunity to **pursue Music as an option** (see development actions). This year, we shall be trialling the provision of the Arts Award, through the **development of a Choir** as part of Key Stage 4 options and we shall investigate the potential utilisation of the Awards for Musical Development - Sounds of Intent provided by Trinity Awarding Body.

C) Foundations for Life (Complex Needs, Autism) / Learning for Life (Severe Learning Difficulties) / Options for Life (Moderate Learning Difficulties) - KS5

Pupils from Learning for Life and Options for Life pathways within Key Stage 5 are currently undertaking an arts project with the Open University that aims to research disadvantaged pupils' access and participation in the arts. The project is utilising multi-arts to listen to the views of pupils who are seldom heard.

Pupils are additionally undertaking a dance project with **Synergy Dance** and a framework of accredited units is currently implemented.

From September 2025, KS5 shall have the opportunity to pursue Music as an option (see development actions). This year, we shall be trialling the provision of the **Arts Award**, and we shall investigate the potential utilisation of the Awards for Musical Development - **Sounds of Intent** provided by Trinity Awarding Body.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Within all pathways, Music is lived through the provision of music cues that support the anticipation and recognition of routines. Singing and movement opportunities are additionally used with many pupils to encourage their engagement and participation in lessons, and as a modality for communication and interaction.

Meadows Music Makers

This year, we shall be exploring the development of a choir which will be predominantly for Key Stage 4 learners across the Engagement for Life (PMLD), Foundations for Life (Complex Needs, Autism) / Learning for Life (Severe Learning Difficulties) / Options for Life (Moderate Learning Difficulties). The choir shall develop singing, Makaton signing, movement, musical performance and playing of non-tuned instruments. The choir shall create a repertoire of songs and shall perform them within the school and its local community. Performances will take place both in school and within the local community, with plans to expand into a whole-school choir over time.

Part C: Musical experiences

The school has previously committed to the development of a range of music opportunities that enrich and enable the personal growth of pupils through the provision of projects and musical opportunities such as Rogue Theatre Company, Big Top Musical Theatre and Open Theatre Company.

This year, the school will implement Culture and Arts days. **Culture and Arts days** aim to enhance the development of music (and other art forms) and provide an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of pupils. Culture and Arts days will provide pupils across the school with the opportunity to perform musically at least three times per year and enjoy access to more than one live music performance. Pupils will have the chance to both perform and listen to others' musical performances. Culture and Arts days shall be internally supported by the Celebrations Team and through the development of partnerships with external music and arts organisations, including **SIPS and specialist arts providers**.

In the future

An action plan has been developed for subsequent years.

Curriculum Development:

- Develop a Whole School Music Plan/Policy (*2025 – 2028 – In Progress*)
- Develop intent, long-term music plan (*2025 / 2026*)

- Develop Key Stage 3 Music within the Topic Approach, ensuring linkage with the model music curriculum and sounds of intent where appropriate *(2025 /2026 – In Progress)*
- Develop a Music Curriculum for Key Stages 4& 5 as an option, ensuring linkage with the model music curriculum, and accredited learning opportunities through the **Arts Award** and **Sounds of Intent Awards** for musical development where appropriate *(2025 /2026 – In Progress)*
- Develop a Music Assessment Framework *(2025 /2026 – In Progress)*
- Establish dedicated curriculum time for KS3 Music *(2026 / 2027)*
- Develop Resources, Equipment, Storage and Classroom/ Rehearsal base for Music Provision *(2025 / 2027 – In Progress)*
- Develop Rationale and Scope of Targeted and Universal Music Opportunities and Related CPD and possibility of Specialist Music Teaching *(2025 / 2026 – In Progress)*
- Consult with KS5 Arts project so it informs the development of the music curriculum and provision *(2025 – 2026 – In Progress)*
- Consult with the Rights of the Child Advisory Group regarding access to the arts *(2025 – 2026 – In Progress).*

Instrumental / Vocal:

Develop a Strategy for Music Tuition (instrumental and vocal) across the school *(2026 – 2027)*

- Develop a strategy for Musical Interaction Development across the school *(2026 – 2027)*
- Develop a strategy for Music Therapy for designated pupils across the school *(2026 – 2027)*
- Develop access to instruments / singing for pupils and their families *(2026 – 2027)*

Musical Events and Opportunities:

- Establish a School Choir *(2026 – 2027)*
- Establish ensemble opportunities for Key Stage 4 & 5 pupils *(2026 – 2027)*
- Establish a termly program of musical events for pupils to perform and further develop their musical abilities *(2025 – 2026 – In Progress)*
- Develop annual opportunities for live music for every pupil *(2025 – 2026 – In Progress)*
- Develop Partnerships with External Agencies for Music Provision *(2025 – 2027 – In Progress)*

Our Commitment

The Meadows School is committed to ensuring that every pupil — regardless of need or ability — has meaningful access to music.

Through this plan, we will continue to develop high-quality, inclusive, and inspiring musical opportunities that enrich our pupils' education and personal development.

For more information, please contact:

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