

Music Development Plan

The Children's Hospital School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Name of the school music lead	Paul Gibson and Ciaran Danaher
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Nikki Cole
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Soft Touch Arts

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.

Willow Bank School (WBS), The Magpie Learning Centre (MLC) and The Phoenix Learning Centre (PLC)

WBS have a designated music room with guitars, bass guitar, acoustic and electronic drums, keyboards and recording equipment. MLC have access to this room and have a range of musical equipment on their site (keyboards, drums and guitars). PLC have a ukelele and guitar area.

Uplift at MLC and PLC: 1-1 music lessons and small group sessions form part of the Uplift offer (half an hour daily sessions). These sessions teach students rudimentary skills in drums, guitar, bass guitar or ukelele.

Music Theory lessons at WBS: Grade 1 music theory (weekly 50 minute lessons)

Singing sessions at WBS and MLC: These 1-1 lessons are delivered as part of re-engagement (half an hour a week) as part of an intervention.

Personal Development (PD) sessions at WBS: 1-1 (half hour) weekly sessions are offered to students in consultation with the Taskforce team as an intervention.

PLC: 50 minute weekly music lessons a week for Y10 and Y11

Arts Award: Music and Musicians across the ages part of the curriculum (KS3 MLC and PLC)

Soft Touch Arts Music at WBS and MLC: KS3 and Year 10 have the opportunity to take part in a ten week music programme (20 hours in total). The first 8 weeks are held in school where students learn various instruments and songs together. Working as a band they write, compose, play and record their own song. The final two weeks involve students going to the music studio at Soft Touch Arts in Leicester to record their track. These sessions are two hours each in duration and students learn the following instruments: Keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, drums, Djembe drums, percussion, saxophone and voice. This takes place across the summer term.

The Leicester Royal Infirmary

Soft Touch Music: Musicians plan 1-1 bespoke lessons for our children on roll. They work with children aged 4-19 years inspiring them and developing their musical skills. Children at the LRI have access to a wide range of percussion instruments and two guitars. Our children enjoy singing, playing instruments together and listening to live music. As part of their music lessons, children develop skills in listening, composing, performing and evaluating. The objectives and outcomes of the lesson are determined by the home-school's curriculum. For SEND students, music is used to express themselves and their emotions as part of a multi-sensory delivery. Music lessons offer children the opportunity to develop their ability in making choices, showing preferences and progressing musical skills.

Part B: Extra 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.

Willow Bank School/ The Magpie Learning Centre / The Phoenix Learning Centre

- Use of the Music Room at social times (WBS)
- Use of music equipment during social times (MLC and PLC)
- Students can borrow musical equipment to take home from all three bases

- End of term musical performances as celebration events all bases
- Christmas Carol service at St Hughes Church and preparation for this event (WBS and MLC)
- Soft Touch Music Track created showcased live at WBS and MLC
- EMPS EYFS Partnership: Singing with preschool students as part of the weekly Work Experience offer for KS3 (MLC)

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.

- **End of term and celebration assemblies** at WBS, MLC and PLC – opportunity to sing and play instruments
- **Christmas Church service:** opportunity to sing and play instruments (WBS and MLC)
- **Year 11 Leavers assembly:** opportunity to sing and play instruments (WBS)
- Opportunities to compose own music/write lyrics for the above events
- MLC and PLC students attend a pantomime in December
- PLC visit to Concordia Theatre

In the future

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

- **The Beacon:** To offer a ten week Soft Touch Music programme for both inpatients and day patients
- **AQA Awards:** All students to achieve AQA awards from music based achievement
- **ASDAN:** To link musical involvement with ASDAN units where appropriate
- **Live musical performances:** To increase opportunities to see live musical performances for example during the London residential having the opportunity to attend a West End production
- **Cross curriculum with RE:** To visit places of worship to experience music and praise
- **Music sessions across the school:** To increase the offer of music sessions through use of a peripatetic teacher KS3 or company (i.e. Rocksteady)
- **Careers:** To explore music based careers like Performing Arts and Music Technology through our Careers programme in school

- **Professional Performances:** To have a professional performance in school for students (KS3 - MLC)

Further information

- Soft Touch Arts: www.soft-touch.org.uk
- The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.