

Music development plan summary: Sladewood Academy Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Lorraine Cooper
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Gloucestershire Music
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, extra-curricular music 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.

We will approach the teaching of music within 'Therapeutic Arts' in a 'project-based' fashion, with children working towards an end goal or outcome where possible. This will allow for children to share their work with others and understand the purpose of their learning, thus making it relevant and meaningful.

We strive for a spiral approach which allows for the revision of ideas to become part of good practice and ultimately helps to build a depth to children's understanding. Through revisiting and consolidating skills, it will help students build on prior knowledge alongside introducing new skills, knowledge and challenges.

Each term will focus on key themes, integrating them across the curriculum to reflect the time of year and relevant topics. For example, 'Our World' may combine art with cross-curricular music activities. Lessons will be themed and driven by children's interests.

Children will experience one Art lesson and one Music lesson each week, building their expressive abilities and musical appreciation. These lessons will include individual and group creative opportunities, whole class singing, and small performances at key points in the year. Offsite visits and guest specialists will enrich the curriculum.

At Sladewood, we maintain an inclusive environment, offering age-appropriate, developmentally accessible projects. We adapt our teaching methods, including using signing, when necessary, to ensure full participation from all students

Part B: Extra-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

We recognise that music is a fundamental part of our pupils lives and can be used as both an environmental and sensory cue to support the pupils in transitioning between activities. Throughout the school, music, singing and the playing of musical instruments is used in different classes to signify key parts of the day such as when it is time to tidy up or when it is lunch time

Music, singing and the use of musical instruments can be very powerful in building relationships, supporting behaviour regulation and developing communication. Music, singing and the use of musical instruments is used in all subject areas to develop shared attention and to motivate and engage the pupils.

As a school we plan to introduce the learning of key songs based upon the seasons. The songs will be chosen for their use of repetition and core language. The singing will be supported by the use of signing and symbols. Classes will be able to access the songs independently to support the children in learning the vocabulary, signing and tune.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical experiences available

We aim to offer a wider range of musical experiences through visitors, trips and the use of recorded music and videos. These will include trips to the circus and a pantomime performance

In the future

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

- Our plan is to review our new music curriculum to ensure that it is appropriate for the range of pupils in the school alongside this we will look at the assessment statements to ensure they demonstrate the progress the children are making.
- Our aim is to investigate links with different musical organisations to broaden the musical experiences of our pupils.
- We plan to research how Charanga can be used in the school to support the teaching of music and to broaden musical experiences
- We plan to audit the musical resources within school and purchase further resources if required