

Music development plan summary: *Swakeleys School for Girls*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/2027
Date this summary was published	29/09/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	1/06/27
Name of the school music lead	Sophia Smith
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Charlotte Dennis
Name of local music hub	London West (Hillingdon), Hillingdon Music Service

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

As a school we deliver high-quality provision in curricular music across KS3 and KS4. Our KS3 curriculum has been revised to ensure to include the key features of the national plan for music education [link](#). Our school music curriculum is also informed by the model music curriculum [link](#) (June 2022), which is non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3. As a school we are proud that our school timetable curriculum includes 2 hours of KS3 music over a fortnightly timetable to all students in Year 7 and 8. This means that all students will receive 1 hour a week solely devoted to musical education. All topics and lessons are mapped out in our Curriculum map and include opportunities to perform, compose and analyse music through varying instruments, styles and creative technology. Our curriculum map can be found at the following link:

<https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/Curriculum-Guides-Year-7/>

<https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/Curriculum-Guides-Year-8/>

This allows for the music department to plan for 6-8 week Schemes of Work, depending on the half term. During lessons we give access to group music making experiences across a range of instruments and voice. This includes whole class percussion, whole class vocal skills, African drumming and individual and/or paired keyboard work into appropriate stages of KS3. The KS3 curriculum is scaffolded so that prior learning is built upon lesson by lesson but also topic by topic, so students not only broaden their skill sets by trying new instruments but also deepen their musical learning and abilities by developing specific skills. Specific topics have been included at KS3 that are built upon at KS4 level, for example Notation skills are developed using the Sibelius software that is required at GCSE level, which is introduced at KS3. Across KS3 we sequence and build students skills linking to the 4 set areas of study at GCSE (Edexcel Component 3; Written Appreciation 40% of GCSE); Students in Y7 study classical music and Y8 baroque music which ties into AOS1 (Edexcel – Instrumental Music 1700 - 1820). Students in Y7 study Vocals Skills and in Y8 Songwriting which ties into AOS2 (Edexcel – Vocal Music). Students in Y8 study Spooky Music (film music) which ties into AOS3 (Edexcel – Music for Stage and Screen). Students in Y7 study African Drumming and Chinese music and Y8 Reggae which ties into AOS4 (Edexcel - Fusions).

We provide excellent access for music for our SEND students. We collaborate with our SEND department, where some SEND students are often taught in smaller group sizes, or 1-1 within spaces in the Performing Arts department. We are an inclusive department and all students have access to our curriculum and our clubs. We liaise with the SEND team and braille our booklets or provide ways to access work through an iPad in order to zoom in on work. Booklets have been made so the curriculum is accessible for all. Our learning outcomes are differentiated with all, most, some and stretch and challenge tasks to ensure progress for all students who learn music. Our visual impaired students are also fully involved with productions and vocal groups. We have a partially deaf student who also has full access to the curriculum with a radio microphone worn by the teacher, and also is involved in our technical team that supports our production.

The link above provides our music curriculum across each year group. The document illustrates how we map our curriculum alongside the model music curriculum with links to foci such as careers and diversity. In Years 9, 10 and 11, we run GCSE Edexcel Pearson as our examining board as we feel it gives our students the ability to become excellent all round musicians and caters for all types of musicians and needs.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html>

This has been illustrated by excellent exam results for example in 2026, we received a P8 score of +1.09, with a 100% pass rate of grade 9-5, with 64% passing with a grade of 9-7. Every student in the class will receive five hours a fortnight with a specialist music teacher learning the academic side of music which includes composition and theory. They will also be offered free 1 to 1 15 minute instrumental lessons when learning through the school or local music hub to support their performing side of music which is

funded by the school. As with KS3 our full curriculum for GCSE can be found on our website using the same link.

All students enjoy live music for example during 'Zero Hero' assemblies, school production, Music Evening, Winter Showcase, Christmas carol playing in the school foyer, assemblies throughout the year, the newly created Spring Soiree, Summer Festival and Open Evenings.

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.

Swakeleys School for Girls has a wide array of opportunities for the students at our school. According to our surveys 111 students are learning instruments at Swakeleys and over 63 students are being taught by peripatetic teachers from Hillingdon Music Hub. Hillingdon Music Service (HMS) offer either 15 or 30 minute lessons. We currently have teachers in school for piano, voice, and strings (violin) and we're looking to expand the range of tuition we provide. Outside of school students can learn other instruments with Hillingdon Music Service such as woodwind (flute), brass, guitar and drums.

When appropriate, students are entered for Graded Music Exams via the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), Trinity or Guildhall. Students are able to have one-to-one lessons, or opt for small or larger group tuition, depending on individual student need and preference. The fees vary depending on how many students are in a lesson, and the length of time of lesson chosen by the parent. All of the fees can be found on the HMS website; <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/1221/Hillingdon-Music-Service>

We promote and advertise any performance or borough opportunities regularly through our school bulletin which is posted for students to see weekly. All Year 7 parents are emailed about the HMS tuition at the beginning of the year which details the instrumental lessons we provide. Where possible, students can loan an instrument from Hillingdon Music Service at a heavily subsidised rate. We are in the process of setting up subsidised instrumental lessons for Pupil Premium students.

Our music clubs run 4 days a week during lunch time and have always been excellently attended by different students across the school, where students participate enthusiastically and with excellent developing musicianship. Our current Musical Production (The Little Mermaid) rehearse during lunch, after school and on specific weekend days. All of our school clubs are free of charge. Our school ensembles include:

- Vocal Group
- Musical Production Cast/Chorus (Y7-10, Y12)

- Band
- Ensemble group
- Performance support (Y10/Y11)
- Composition support (Y10/Y11)
- Student led rock bands across KS3 and KS4 (students organise themselves into bands and are able to practice at lunch and after school using the school music practice rooms.)
- Ad-hoc Vocal Groups

We open practice spaces regularly for students to further improve their practical work that begins in the classroom to give room for further improvement. This regular availability supports individual and small group rehearsal on any instrument and for voice. These groups then go on to perform in front of their peers, or in Music Evening, showcases, festivals and other performance opportunities at school.

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.

Swakeleys School for Girls provides lots of opportunities for our students including regular concerts and theatre visits throughout the year for example, In the last two years students will have been given the opportunity to attend a theatre trip to see Newsies, MJ the Musical, Hamilton, the Snowman, Swan Lake, Hercules, and a visit to the Royal Festival Hall to see the London Philharmonic Orchestra. All Y7 students will see a pantomime in December, the vocal group will perform at Voice in a Million in March with more opportunities to be planned ahead. Our GCSE students attend the Hillingdon Borough GCSE Music Conference, which focuses on how to achieve a top grade in GCSE Music. Performances include a large cohort of students performing or watching the Winter Showcase and the Summer Festival where ensembles and vocal groups flourish, as well as providing musical items for various events throughout the year. These include Open Evening, Y6 Transition Day, Celebration Evening, Zero-Hero Assemblies and workshops with local schools. We run a large and popular musical theatre production every year which include a 90 plus student cast and a 5 plus student technical team. Auditions are well attended with 200 attendees auditioning for each new production over the past 5 years. Our recent productions have been High School Musical, Bugsy Malone, Matilda, The Addams's Family, Fame and Legally Blonde. This year we are putting on High School Musical where students will perform in February. Students will also get to see snippets of this performance in the lead up to our show week.

When a music event or trip is open to parents or carers to attend, letters are distributed which details whether an event or trip is ticketed, seated or just a 'turn up' occasion. It will also explain if an event is free of charge or includes a fee and how to pay (usually via parent pay). Students with Pupil Premium status receive discounts or fully funded places

on trips, their lunch is provided on the day if they are out of school for an event or trip. Each student with Pupil Premium gets a free ticket to for the school production.

In the future

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

We continually build on and develop our music plan each academic year. The curriculum is tweaked as necessary, to ensure teaching practice and materials are as up to date as possible We will continue to maintain our high-quality music provision, for example maintaining the amount of time students are able to access timetabled music lessons. We may introduce the teaching of new instruments, in the future and will continue with our termly and frequent performances.

In the future, our plan is continue the great things that happen at Swakeleys School and reach outwards into the local educational community through providing workshops in schools which either don't currently have any or want to expand their provision. After Covid, we saw a decline of music provisions and students wanting to learn instruments that are not provided at Swakeleys and this has now started to impact us at Swakeleys School for Girls. We want to stop that trend and bring back music into the heart of our local community.

Further information (optional)

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.

Hillingdon's local Music service; <https://pre.hillingdon.gov.uk/music>

includes useful information about the service it supplies.

For any further information please do look on the schools website or contact the Performing Arts Curriculum Leader; Miss Coking via the school office.