# Music development plan summary: Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls

**WPSfG Music Department Vision**

The vision Music at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls is for music to be fully embedded in every aspect of school life, and our aspiration is that every child adopts a lifelong appreciation of music. Our music curriculum aims to provide all pupils with a high-quality music education which engages and inspires children to be passionate about music, to increase their self-confidence, creativity, and imagination, and provide opportunities for self-expression and a sense of personal achievement.

WPSfG Music Department develops students' skills and enthusiasm through singing, playing instruments, composing, and arranging. Listening and Appraising skills are developed by exploring music from different artists and genres and the study of different types of music notation.

Students have access to playing a range of instruments: Ukuleles, Acoustic/electric guitars, keyboards, Bass guitars, Drum Kits/Samba Kits/Djembes/other percussion, as well as singing. All students have access to individual computers to create music using music technology.

Music is further enhanced through extracurricular activities, trips, and instrumental lessons. Our aim is to widen the aspirations and interests of pupils by exposing them to a wide range of experiences. Music is for life, not just for school!

## Overview

| Detail | Information |
|---|---|
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025-2026 |
| Date this summary was published | 18.05.2026 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | 05.09.2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Joanne Stamp |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Caroline Sehested |
| Name of local music hub | Greenwich Music Hub |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | National Youth Jazz Orchestra |

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.

**The Music Curriculum – Overview and Rationale**

***Our music curriculum follows the Model Music Curriculum (MMC) with a focus on Singing, Listening, composing and Performing/Instrumental Performance which is tailored around our students' needs and learning styles.***

**Key Stage 3**

Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls offers a 3-year Key Stage Three (KS3) curriculum, providing students with a one-hour classroom music lesson per week over the three years at KS3. The curriculum has a focus on three areas: Performance, Composition and Listening and Appraising.

Our curriculum covers a wide range of different styles of music and techniques that build as the KS3 curriculum progresses. We aim to meet the needs of all our students by adapting our lessons and teaching so that all students can access the curriculum. Students practically create music in every music lesson. We also offer a Music CPD to our SEN department to upskill our staff and develop their confident within the music setting.

In **Year 7**, students learn and develop their practical skills through whole class singing, ukulele, keyboard, drumming and music technology. We want every student to have a strong foundation from the beginning of their musical journey at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls. Students complete Read Now and Listen Now activities at the beginning of every lesson to enhance their musical knowledge and musical listening skills.

In **Year 8**, students build on and develop these skills further in a range of world music topics; The Blues, West African Drumming, Reggae as well as a Sequencing topic, where students develop their music technology skills by creating their own arrangement of Pachelbel's Canon in D.

In **Year 9**, students further develop their performing and creating skills as well as their musical knowledge in topics including: What Makes a Good Song (Understanding Pop music structure), Samba, and Sequencing and Arranging.

**Key Stage 4**

At KS4, we offer the Eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts Technical Award (with a discipline in Music). We feel that students thrive with a coursework style course where they have the opportunity to explore their own interests in music. Within this course we provide students with up-to-date resources and experiences such as professional performance spaces, technology and workshops and trips to enhance their learning.

## Part B: Co-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.

**Extracurricular activities and enrichment**

Students can join several music ensembles at school. There is no level of ability needed for these clubs, just commitment to attend all rehearsals as we work towards performances throughout the year. The ensembles on offer are Concert Band, KS3 Choir, KS4 Vocal Ensemble, Ukulele Ensemble, Samba Club and String Ensemble. Students also have the opportunity to form their own small group ensembles in addition to our regular weekly clubs.

We have two music classrooms and three practices rooms within the music department. Students are allowed to book these rooms at breaktime and lunchtime to practice their instruments and to perform in small group ensembles. Our practice rooms are also used for our in-house Instrumental Lesson programme.

**Instrumental Lesson Programme**

We run an in-house instrumental lesson programme for students at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls. This provides students with the opportunity to take vocal or instrumental lessons at school. Students receive a paired 20-minute lesson and an instrument to take home with them to practice. Our programme provides students with greater access to instrumental lessons, with Pupil Premium students receiving a reduction of 50% in the cost of lessons.

Our peripatetic teachers provide the following tuition: voice, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, violin, flute, trumpet and drum kit. We presently have 50 students taking instrumental lessons at school. In the new academic year, we will start providing students with the opportunity to take the graded exams with Trinity music.

In addition to these lessons, the National Youth Jazz Orchestra is presently offering small-group saxophone tuition for students who are committed to attending lessons once a week after 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.

We hold two concerts a year, a Winter Concert in December and Summer Concert in July. Our concerts showcase the music they have been learning in the weekly ensemble/clubs as well as a number of solo and small group performances. We regularly have 80-100 students that perform at our concerts.

We aim to provide termly performances where possible. These performances In KS4 music showcase where students have an evening event to showcase their Unit 1 Performances. Students who are taking Instrumental Lessons are encouraged to perform in an Instrumental evening recital. This gives students an opportunity to perform in a smaller setting, and parents are invited to attend to see the progress their child is making in their lessons. Year 7 students have a singing assembly where they get to perform for their year group.

We aim to provide at least one workshop and a trip each year. This year we had a visiting artist/composer lead a workshop with our year 10 music students. Previously, we have had visits from Singer/songwriters and NYJO jazz ensemble to provide interactive workshops and concerts.

We have links with Woolwich Works and Greenwich Music Hub who have also provided us opportunities such as the Singing Spectacular, NYJO Blues and Jazz Workshop, Jingle Bell Jazz Concert, Music Career workshop and the NYJO Sound Foundation Saxophone ensemble.

The Head of Music provides primary school outreach to neighbouring schools. This programme runs throughout the year and is provided to Year 5 students. This year, all the year 5 students at Discovery Primary school have had bi-weekly 1-hour sessions where they have explored Samba music and have learned how to play and perform in a Samba Ensemble using our school professional Samba kit. We also give opportunities for our primary schools to attend and perform at our school concerts each year. Bannockburn Primary performed at our Winter Concert this year.

We are always looking for ways to provide cultural enrichment to our students. For example, in previous years, our music students visited one of our local Care Homes during the holiday season to provide entertainment to the elderly residents.

## In the future

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

Part of our music culture at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls, is to regularly reflect and look at ways to develop and improve our music provision in our

school. In the future, we aim to introduce one external concert opportunity for KS4 and one additional workshop/internal concert opportunity for KS3 in the school year 2026-27. We also aim to develop our Instrumental Lesson Programme by providing students with access to taking Trinity graded exams in the next academic school year by July 2027.