



SWANLEA SCHOOL

Swanlea School
Music Development Plan
2025-2026

Swanlea School Music Development Plan 2025 -2026

School name	Swanlea School
Academic year covered	2025-26
Date summary published	September 2025
Next review date	July 2026 (update before the new academic year)
School music lead	Janet Coulson (music lead)
Leadership team member responsible for music	Deputy Headteacher (curriculum)
Local music hub	THAMES – nine specialist peripatetic teachers from THAMES visit each week to deliver free instrumental lessons to over 130 students.
Other music-education partners	Spitalfields Music (for large-scale projects and residencies)

This summary explains how our school provides music education across curriculum, co-curricular and wider experiences and highlights future improvements. It is intended for pupils, parents/carers and partners. Detailed schemes of work should continue to be published on the curriculum page of the school website (and include information on inclusion/SEND provision as required in the school information regulations).

1. Curriculum music

Time allocation and curriculum framework

- We will deliver 100 minutes of music every 2 weeks for pupils in key stage 3. At KS4 and KS5 the 300 minutes allocation reflects the Eduqas Examination Specification and remains sufficient for pupils to develop practical and theoretical skills.
- Our curriculum follows the National Curriculum for music and is informed by the **Model Music Curriculum** (DfE 2021) as recommended by the NPME. Schemes of work are sequenced to build knowledge and skills progressively and include singing, composition, performing and listening. We use resources which are produced in-house that fit to our Swanlea Learning Cycle. A link to the detailed curriculum will appear on the website.
- Access and inclusion are central: music lessons are designed to be accessible to all learners, with adapted instruments and assistive technology for pupils with disabilities and additional adults to support SEND pupils.

Instrumental and vocal opportunities in lesson time

- **Access at KS3** – All students in Key Stage 3 will have access to specialist tuition from subject-specialist teachers, with additional input from THAMES peripatetic teachers, ensuring every pupil develops practical instrumental and vocal skills. Instrumental lessons take place during the school day and students attend their lesson for 30 mins, normally in a pair. Our THAMES teachers are specialist orchestral and Jazz teachers and students all attend rehearsals for Orchestra each term. Families include strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. Using the school's instrument bank or hub-provided loan instruments. Students interested in examination courses at KS4/KS5 will receive guidance on choosing an instrument and progression routes.

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Qualifications and progression

- At KS4 we offer GCSE Music. **Music is a successful option at KS4**, with strong outcomes. Students also take **ABRSM instrumental music grade examinations at all levels** through the THAMES programme. Currently students range from Grade 1 up to the top grade 8, which is testament to the quality and high expectations of our students.

Partnerships supporting curriculum music

- We will work with our **local music hub** to access specialist teachers, loan instruments and professional development for staff. Visiting musicians will support ensemble teaching and workshops, such as Audition Club with the Royal Academy of Music and BIG SING with Spitalfields Music.
- Collaboration with secondary schools and higher-education providers will give pupils exposure to orchestras, choirs and career pathways in the creative industries.

2. Co-curricular music

Tuition beyond lesson time

- **Instrumental and vocal lessons** – Nine specialist peripatetic teachers from **THAMES** visit Swanlea each week. **All instrumental tuition is funded entirely by the school**, meaning that one-to-one and small-group lessons covering guitar, piano, violin, brass, woodwind, percussion and voice are provided at **zero cost to families**. More than **130** students currently benefit from this programme. As there are no charges for lessons, remissions are not required; any additional activities that carry a cost will include clear information for parents and carers.
- **School choirs and vocal ensembles** – There will be separate choirs for lower school and upper school, open to all pupils. In addition, we will run a chamber choir for more advanced singers and provide sign-up opportunities each term.
- **Instrumental ensembles, bands and groups** – In addition to beginner string, brass and wind groups, Swanlea runs a **very large and successful orchestra** as part of its enrichment programme. There is also a rock band. Ensemble membership is free and instruments are provided via the hub.
- **Practice and rehearsal space** – The music department will maintain practice rooms that pupils can book before and after school and at lunchtimes. The school hall will be available for larger rehearsals.

Progression and enrichment

- Pupils taking instrumental lessons will have termly performance opportunities and can work towards graded exams. Older pupils will be encouraged to mentor younger pupils, fostering peer-to-peer support.
- We will provide information about local Saturday music centres and youth orchestras run by the music hub and encourage pupils to join.

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3. Musical Experiences

In-school events

- **Termly performances** – Each term will culminate in a concert or musical production showcasing class projects, choirs and ensembles. Parents and the community will be invited.
- **Assemblies and singing** – Weekly **KS3 singing assemblies** will provide collective singing experiences for Key Stage 3 students and link repertoire to themes and cultural events.
- **Cross-curricular projects** – We will integrate music into subjects such as history (e.g. exploring music of different periods and cultures) and science (sound production), supporting broader learning.

Out-of-school experiences

- **Live performances** – Pupils will attend at least one professional concert or musical per year, for example visits to local theatres, orchestras or festivals. Free tickets and transport will be provided where needed.
- **Partnership events** – The school will participate in massed ensemble events organised by the music hub or multi-academy trust, such as carol services or summer galas. **We work closely with Spitalfields Music** to give all students access to large-scale music-making experiences and professional residencies.
- **Community engagement** – We will invite local musicians into school for workshops and collaborate with community groups for performances in care homes or public spaces.
- **Royal Military links and workshops** – We have established links with the **Royal Military bands**. Students have the opportunity to visit the Royal Marines School of Music in Portsmouth and the barracks that serve Buckingham Palace for workshops and performances. These experiences are aimed at inspiring musicians beyond KS4 and highlighting career pathways in music performance and military bands.

4. Plans for improvement and future years

- **Expanding instrument provision** – In 2026-27 we intend to increase the number of students taking up instruments and joining the ensembles through our partnership with **THAMES**. We will also seek to take the orchestra out into the community for performance opportunities.
- **New ensembles** – Plans include **expanding the existing orchestra** (e.g. through sectional rehearsals and collaborations) and adding music-technology clubs to engage pupils interested in production, composition and sound engineering.
- **Enhanced performance opportunities** – We will feature performances from ensembles in the Family Fun Day where parents and the community can experience live music and be impressed by the standards achieved.

5. Further information

- **Parents' and carers' guide** – The DfE provides guidance for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music and where to find additional support. We will link this on our website.
- **Local music hub contact** – Details of the local music hub and its programmes will be included, along with contact information for peripatetic providers.

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- **Trust or federation plan** – If our school is part of a multi-academy trust, links to the trust-wide music development plan will be provided.

Writing the Music Development Plan requires detailed knowledge of the school's curriculum, staffing, resources and partnerships. As **Janet Coulson** is Swanlea School's designated **music lead**, it is appropriate for her to draft the plan on behalf of the leadership team. She should work closely with the headteacher and with **THAMES** and **Spitalfields Music** to ensure that the plan reflects the school's extensive provision and partnerships and remains accessible and inclusive.