

Music development plan summary:
Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	16th June 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1st September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss L. Franks
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr D. Bull
Name of local music hub	City Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Future Sounds

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.

<p>At Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams by the end of KS3, a great musician will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Apply key musical terms to both written music and aural music● Understand musical symbols, time signatures, and accidentals● Proficiently use musical instruments such as keyboards and percussion● Utilise music technology for sampling, mixing and recording● Identify and understand a variety of musical genres● Analyse and appraise music● Recognise compositional devices and be able to use them to compose short musical pieces● Understand music theory on an entry-level● Connect music to cultural and social contexts● Demonstrate creativity, collaboration and self-expression through music● Understand how music enhances visual experiences and conveys narratives <p>Our KS3 Music curriculum fully encompasses the KS3 National Curriculum aims, based on the three fundamental building blocks of music education - listening and appraising, composition and performance.</p>

- Students take part in solo and duet work on the keyboards
- Group performances using drums and percussion

Throughout KS3 topics, students gain a deep understanding of a wide range of styles and genres, including but not limited to Orchestral music, Traditional African music, Video Game Music and Blues - we pride ourselves on a diverse and aspirational curriculum in which the students can see themselves. Our curriculum also includes uses of Music Technology such as Bandlab, Sibelius and BeepBox which students can access via their Chromebooks, making the curriculum both current and encapsulating modern technology.

As students delve into these topics they also learn basic notation reading skills and music specific vocabulary, which are strategically revisited throughout the course of the three years so students can draw and build on prior knowledge as part of a cohesive learning experience. There is equal access to music lessons for all students regardless of demographic, SEND status, disadvantage or any other characteristic. Students with additional needs are supported to access the subject and succeed in line with their SEND pupil passports and the music curriculum has been carefully designed and 'poverty-proofed' to ensure that no students are disadvantaged as a result of any potential socio-economic challenges.

Subject Specialists

Music is led by Miss Franks who is supported by additional instrumental teachers from the City Music Service and EQTY. Miss Franks is part of a wider network of Music Leads across the Trust including a Trust SLE for music, who have access to Trust-wide projects and Music specific continued professional development.

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.

At Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams, we offer a wide variety of co-curricular music for students. Students have the opportunity to learn the ukulele in the Florence Ukuleles group, which is offered to all students as part of our Electives program; the ukuleles were given to the academy through a partnership by HH Global, which is ongoing.

The 'Florence Choir' runs weekly on Tuesdays after school.

In addition to core timetabled music lessons, the academy offers a range of instrumental and vocal tuition opportunities including:

- piano / keyboard lessons
- guitar and bass guitar lessons
- drum lessons

The academy works in partnership with an external organisation with peripatetic teachers, City Music Service, to provide this provision.

These lessons are during the school day and are fully funded, ensuring there are no barriers to learning an instrument for any student. All pupil premium students receive free instrument hire.

Co-op Academies Trust has extended its partnership with EQTY in Music (previously known as Abram Wilson) to deliver their 'Future Sounds' program across all secondary academies. The program is designed to inspire young people from underrepresented backgrounds by offering them opportunities to develop their musical and creative potential. Through workshops, students learn composition, songwriting, performance skills, music recording and gain valuable insights into building careers in the music industry. At Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams, every student in the current cohort has had the opportunity to partake in this program, with further sessions scheduled for the 2027-28 academic year.

As the academy grows we look forward to introducing other opportunities for students to experience music in a range of formats and circumstances.

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.

Students are encouraged to and do perform at the start of assemblies, or other important events such as Galas or Parents' Evenings.

Through a partnership with the 'Hallé for Youth' program, run by the Hallé Orchestra, selected students who show musical potential in their classroom lessons will receive the opportunity to go to the Victoria Hall to watch a full-length orchestra concert.

We have an annual Christmas tradition where students, accompanied by teachers, gather around the Christmas tree to sing Christmas carols.

As well as taking part in performances we understand the importance of students attending aspirational live professional performances as an opportunity to gain cultural capital and therefore organise an annual Musical Theatre trip which is either free of charge for students or heavily subsidised by the academy. In February 2026, over 50 students were taken to see Wicked at the Apollo Theatre in London.

In the future

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

As the academy continues to grow we look forward to expanding our music specialist team and provision, with the hope of introducing new instrumental lessons including strings and woodwind to our programme.

There is an additional member of staff employed from September 2026 to increase the capacity of our music department.