

Music Development Plan Summary: Nishkam School West London

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Zahide Gokkaya (Primary) Ciarán McCarthy & Rasanjeet Khalsa (Secondary)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	NA
Name of local music hub	Hounslow Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NA

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.

At Nishkam School West London our aim is for our children to develop an appreciation and enjoyment of music. Through our engaging extra and immersive curriculum, children will gain a secure understanding of what music is. A link to our curriculum maps can be found here.

https://nishkamhigh.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/nst/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BCE2E527E-7CAC-4F98-98B7-2955A1795DD3%7D&file=Music%20Curriculum%20Overview%20-%20updated%2023-24.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true

Our Primary curriculum is centred on the Kapow scheme of learning which empowers teachers with a spiral and progressive scheme of learning in different subject areas, in this case music. The Kapow scheme strives for excellence in tune with our school ethos of our trust. The curriculum is adaptive, ensuring that children with Special Educational Needs (SEND) have meaningful and tailored access to the music curriculum.

The curriculum is designed to give the opportunity of studying and exploring music thoroughly throughout their time at Nishkam School West London. Children can practise and build key musical skills, facilitated by the Kapow Scheme of Learning and daily classroom activities. Music education is an integral part of the school day, from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) through to Year 6. Year 3 students receive a year-long, whole-class instrumental tuition led by a music specialist, allowing them to learn and develop mastery of an instrument over time. Every student at the school participates in a weekly 40-minute music lesson and a 20-minute collective worship (singing hymns) assembly, ensuring the statutory requirement of one hour of music education each week is met.

In summary, our Primary music curriculum is designed to provide a robust and comprehensive music education that nurtures that musical talents and interests of our pupils. By focusing on listening and appraising and ensuring a structures and progressive approach to teaching music, we aim to develop well- rounded musicians who appreciate and engage with music on a deep and meaningful level.

KS3 students from Years 7 to 9 are provided with one 55 minute music lesson on a weekly basis, allowing for greater progression than would be seen with fortnightly lessons. In addition, students take music throughout the entirety of the academic year, meaning there are no lengthy gaps or periods of non-music making that would occur in schools with music as a carousel curriculum.

In Year 7 Music, students begin their creative journey by developing their ensemble skills through group singing. Students then begin to focus on developing their instrumental ability through Keyboard Skills. This topic is taught with the aim of ensuring that every student has a fluency in reading and performing keyboard music, regardless of their prior musical experience or instrumental ability. Students later develop their musical literacy through learning to notate pitch and rhythm using stave notation. Performance and composition tasks are incorporated into each of these topics. In Spring and Summer term of Year 7, there is a greater focus on developing listening and appraising skills through studying Instruments of the Orchestra and Musical Elements. Our aim in these topics is for students to be equipped with the vocabulary necessary to describe in detail a given piece of music.

In Year 8, students expand their instrumental ability by learning Ukulele Skills. The skills gained in this topic are then revisited in the study of various genres of music including Rock, Reggae and Blues. With each of these topics, students are taught the idiomatic features of these styles and learn to demonstrate them either by creating a performance or composition using these features. Music Technology skills are also taught in Year 8, with students learning how to record, edit and produce compositions using Garageband software.

Year 9 students build on prior knowledge through studying Film Music and learn how to manipulate various Musical Element in order to compose soundtracks for different film genres such as action. Students continue developing their ability to use Music Technology through creating film soundtracks on Garageband. In Spring term Musical Theatre is also covered, and students develop their appraising skills further by learning to create written comparisons of cover songs.

Music is offered at GCSE level through the Eduqas exam board. Eduqas Music consists of three components, Performing, Composing and Listening. In Year 10, students are taught how to identify and describe Musical Elements using more complex terminology, as well as more advanced composition skills using notation. Students are introduced to set works which will appear on their exam and begin their composition coursework. In Y11 students continue to develop their composition skills through composing a contrasting piece to an exam board brief and gain more confidence as performers through preparing a solo and ensemble performance.

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.

Providing extra-curricular and faith-based musical opportunities for our children remains at the heart of our vision and ethos. This year has been one of significant growth, dedication and spiritual depth across our Faith and Music Enrichment Offer. Our school continues to champion Sikh musical heritage while simultaneously providing a broad, high-quality musical education for all pupils. The impact is visible daily in pupils' confidence, discipline, musicality and their deepening spiritual connection to their faith.

Heritage Music Pathways: Kirtan and Tabla

Our faith inspired music programmes continue to flourish and are now a defining feature of school life:

-Pupils are learning Kirtan, developing vocal technique, rhythm, confidence and a meaningful connection to Gurbani.

-Pupils are learning Tabla, strengthening discipline, timing and their understanding of classical and Sikh percussion traditions.

Daily Kirtan (Singing hymns) Opportunities

Kirtan has become embedded in daily school routines in a powerful and nurturing way:

Every morning, pupils perform Kirtan in the Faith Space, creating a calm and uplifting start to the day.

Every day during collective worship, pupils lead the school community in Kirtan, strengthening the Sikh ethos and offering spiritually rich experiences for their peers.

At lunchtimes, pupils gather in the Faith Space for voluntary Kirtan practice.

Many pupils also choose to practise during 10-minute breaks, demonstrating exceptional dedication and passion.

Kirtan for Special Faith Events

Pupils have confidently performed Shabads (hymns) during whole-school collective worship for major faith events.

These performances have added spiritual vibrancy and strengthened whole-school participation in faith celebrations.

Gurmat Sangeet Music Provision

Over 75 pupils from year 4-11 take part in lessons delivered by world renowned teachers Gurbaksh Singh Matharu and Pali Kalsi in Kirtan and Tabla on a weekly basis. Children in year 4-11 take part in group lessons using a range of instruments which include:

- Harmonium
- Dilruba
- Esraj
- Rabab
- Tabla

Peripatetic Music Provision

In addition to faith music, pupils continue to benefit from a broad instrumental offer delivered by specialist tutors through the Hounslow Music Education Hub. Children in

Years 3–6 receive weekly one-to-one or small-group lessons and are encouraged to join Music Service Ensembles to extend their musical journey.

This year's instrument take up includes:

- Drum
- Flute
- Guitar
- Piano
- Violin
- Vocal

All pupils are provided with instruments to support practice at home and school, enabling rapid progress and sustained engagement.

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.

A range of musical experiences are planned for the coming academic year which are as follows:

- Daily collective worship & singing hymns
- Heritage music performances
- Whole School Vaisakhi event
- Christmas Carol Concert and Community Carol Singing
- Whole School Fundraising Opportunities
- Year 6 Leavers Production (Year 6)
- Trips to local live performance concerts
- Whole School Pantomime Experience

In the future

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

At Nishkam School West London, we are committed to continually improving our music education to ensure it meets the highest standards and provides enriching experiences for all our students. In the coming years, we aim to introduce several key

enhancements to our curriculum, co-curricular activities, and musical experiences to further cultivate our students' musical skills and appreciation.

We are looking forward to implementing more opportunities for whole school instrumental teaching by adding another instrument to our teaching timetable for our Key stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Further information (optional)

Collaboration - The school is part of the Nishkam Schools Multi-Academy Trust. The Music Subject Leader participates in termly Subject Development Group meetings.

CPD - We value the importance of quality first teaching and recognise the need for teachers to have a strong subject knowledge in music. Ongoing CPD is provided to teachers in the form of teaching blasts throughout the year.