

St Thomas of Canterbury C of E Primary School



Music Development Plan Summary 2024-2025

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Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Anna Dunn Katherine Newman
Name of school governor with responsibility for music	John Gowlett
Name of local music hub	Essex
Name of other music education organisation(s)	Sing Up

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.

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.

Time: EYFS have a 30 minute music lesson every week. KS1 have an hour music lesson per fortnight. KS2 have music timetabled 1 hour per fortnight and can use our dedicated music suite.

Worship: The whole school has a 20-minute singing practice during 'Prayer and Praise' each week with one of the Music Subject Leaders. This includes vocal warm-ups and practising different skills. All children also sing daily as part of our Collective Worship and listen to our 'Music of the Week' as they come into the hall. There are opportunities to analyse and discuss this music.

EYFS and KS1: EYFS and KS1 use schemes from 'Sing Up,' which cover all areas of the National Curriculum.

Year 2 have whole-class recorder lessons during the summer term, using a scheme and resources from Charanga. They begin to develop an understanding of musical notation, including reading notes on a staff and recognising different note values.

KS2: Our KS2 schemes of work cover a range of skills in the key areas—performance, composition, and listening. The children listen to and play music from a variety of styles, genres, and countries. This includes playing Samba music and African drumming. Years 3, 4, and 6 spend 1 term per year learning keyboard skills, and Year 4 spends 1 term having whole-class p-Trumpet lessons from an outside teacher, funded by the Essex Music Hub. Our children all leave KS2 with a strong basic knowledge of musical notation.

Equal Opportunities/SEND: We ensure that there is appropriate provision for pupils identified as having special educational needs (SEND). There are many ways in which the music curriculum can be adapted, when necessary, in order to meet the needs of the full ability range. These include varying input, changing the content or task, availability of resources, the grouping of pupils and support from the classteacher or LSA.

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.

Peripatetic Teaching: We have pupils across the school participating in peripatetic music lessons, which are arranged and paid for by parents/carers. Our dedicated music rooms are equipped with pianos and a drum kit. Pupils have the opportunity to work towards graded exams and perform in our annual music concert. Currently, we have pupils learning piano, drums, and guitar.

Choirs: Our KS1 Choir was recently established and is open to all children in Year 1 and 2. The choir rehearses on Wednesdays after school. Our KS2 Choir is very popular, with around 50-60 regular members. The choir rehearses on Tuesdays after school. The children in these choirs develop their singing skills through various warm-ups and by learning a range of song styles. They perform regularly at concerts both in and out of school (more information on this below).

Musical Experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in collective worship, school Eucharists, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

- All of the children sing daily as part of our collective worship. Some of these songs are traditional hymns, while others are modern songs of worship.
- All children perform at Christmas. Years 5 and 6 perform in a carol concert either at St Thomas' Church or in school, while the rest of the school takes part in Christmas plays, which parents/carers are invited to watch.
- Our choirs perform each half term during our Eucharists. Instrumentalists are also invited to perform at the beginning and end.
- We have an annual summer music concert in our school hall for the choirs and instrumentalists to perform for their families.
- Members of the choir in Years 5 and 6 have the exciting opportunity to perform at the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. They learn a range of songs in rehearsals and then perform them to a large audience alongside thousands of children from other schools. This is a very memorable experience and is arranged for every other academic year.
- Our school choirs are regularly invited to perform at concerts outside of school, including a Christmas concert at St Thomas' Church.
- All Year 6 children take part in a summer production that includes group and solo singing.
- Classes have the chance to perform for parents/carers at the end of some curriculum units, such as Samba and African drumming.

In the Future

- Liaise with Essex Music Hub – look out for other opportunities to use their resources/help.
- Invite instrumentalists from Becket Keys Secondary School to play for the children in worship or summer music concert to inspire them to learn an instrument.
- Encourage a string and brass teacher to visit and enthuse pupils to consider taking up lessons.
- Continue with CPD to keep up to date with the latest ideas.
- Provide support and training to teachers to improve curriculum delivery and pupil experience.
- Further develop using technology within our music lessons.
- Continue to liaise with our Music Governor.