

# Music development plan: Thomas Hickman School

***“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.” Plato.***

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this covers	26/27
Date this was published	29/01/26
Date this will be reviewed	05/09/28
Name of the school music lead	J Kwasnik
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Bucks Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	XYZ Music Academy Create Music

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 Thomas Hickman School, we follow the national curriculum for teaching music; we also follow the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum, published by the DfE in March 2021. We do this via the ‘SingUp’ music teaching scheme. We have chosen this scheme because its aim is for every child to have access to **high-quality, practical, and engaging musical experiences** through pupil and teacher resources. We want all children to develop the self-confidence, skills, knowledge, and understanding to develop a lifelong love of music, whilst also providing a secure foundation that enables them to take music further should they wish to. We call this our ***Soaring Sounds Music Curriculum***.

This is further enhanced by our link with our local music hub; Buckinghamshire Music Trust. They provide us with a specialist teacher to teach instrumental lessons to our year 4 and 5 pupils. Pupils will either study ukulele or brass (Cornet, Trombone, Trumpet) in a 3-year program. We believe that this enhanced 3 year approach allows for mastery of an instrument by giving pupils a real deep dive into their instrument, allowing continuity of provision. This year, year 4 pupils are beginning ukulele and year 5, brass. Year 4 will then continue with ukulele in year 5 and next year's year 4 pupils will begin their brass journey for two years. Due to additional grant funding, from 2026 year 6 pupils will also benefit from this model until February half-term, continuing their musical program from year 5 before the performance focus of the final term. Year 2 will then have foundation music lessons for the remainder of the year with our specialist teacher. This will give a solid grounding in music which will greatly benefit pupils as they progress through the music program in later years.

Whilst a specialist music teacher teaches the instrumental lessons, class teachers teach from the SingUp scheme. In a recent OFSTED report, it was found that in most schools, the weakest aspect of the curriculum was teaching pupils to become better at composition- 'SingUp' provides children with opportunities for composition and performance. It progressively builds skills throughout Year 1-Year 6 through exploration and knowledge led learning. With each unit and every lesson plan being provided by SingUp our aim is to provide great teaching resources and clear delivery guidance that saves teachers time, supports their subject knowledge, and gives them confidence in teaching music practically. Sing Up Music is designed and written by subject specialists. It sets out the skills, knowledge, and understanding to be gained by all pupils at each stage of learning, including the Early Years Foundation Stage. Together, the 80+ units (for Nursery to Year 6) represent a complete and progressive library of resources that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum for Music, the suggested approaches of the Model Music Curriculum, as well as the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage and Music Development Matters. Sing up's curriculum also draws on a broad range of musical traditions, using authentic songs and materials. Every child throughout the school takes part in a music lesson every week. We use SingUp in Year 1 through to Year 6 (showing consistency and progression throughout the school). Every class has 45minutes of Music timetabled each week although this can at times be adapted and increased for performance events such as our performance pit stops or musical productions. A more detailed breakdown of the SingUp curriculum can be found in the music **disciplinary and substantive** document published on our website. We capture all music lessons in a class music book which includes pupil contributions and pictures of our students being musical. These books follow classes through the school and show the progression of skills and musicality from year 1 through to year 6. All classes are also being asked this year to produce a music assessment folder on the school system. These will allow class teachers and support staff to upload videos at the required Sing Up progression points so that progress can be monitored throughout the year and beyond.

Throughout EYFS, children are given the opportunity to explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups. We regularly invite children to suggest songs to sing in groups and value their ideas, whether this be nursery rhymes, pop songs, songs from home or their own creations. We play circle song games and group games, eg songs with parachutes, partnering songs eg “Row, Row”. In Reception, they have an outdoor stage with a selection of musical instruments, including microphones, to perform for their friends. Children are encouraged to record their music sessions with iPads and their work uploaded to Tapestry to be celebrated with parents. Music is used during many of our daily routines; singing to tidy up, when it is snack/lunch time and at the end of the day, using the Sing Up songs. Nursery rhymes are woven throughout the day. Our Preschool and Reception learn songs for a Nativity in the Autumn term, providing them with an opportunity to sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody.

In addition to our weekly music lessons, all pupils take part in a 15 minute singing and music assembly. This ring-fenced time ensures all pupils get high quality singing and musical exposure including participation and exposure to composing with musical technology. The model music curriculum lists use of musical technology as a key area for schools to target and basic music mixing is available on all school Chromebooks. Music and singing assembly also allows for dedicated time to accommodate professional music experiences and performances. We have a full set of African Djembe drums which can be used by class teachers to supplement and assist in the delivery of their SingUP music lessons as well Boom whackers and glockenspiels. Our music displays are tactile and interactive and encourage pupils to pick up and play with a variety of percussion and orchestral instruments.

## **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.

In addition to two years of specialist led class instrumental lessons, all pupils have access to a wide variety of co-curricular music and instrumental opportunities. Our strong working relationship with Bucks Music Trust and our membership of their programme allows access to subsidised lessons in nearly any orchestral and classical instrument. After displaying an interest, pupils can be linked to a specialist one-to-one teacher from BMT who will conduct lessons weekly during the school day. Instruments are loaned to pupils at either no cost or for a negligible fee. This relationship gives pupils high quality one to one peripatetic lessons at the fraction of the cost they would be commercially.

Our agreement with XYZ music allows pupils to access modern and rock instruments and we currently have a very popular drum provision every Tuesday. XYZ provide and

tuition in electric guitar, bass and singing for performance and are the perfect choice for the budding rock star. Like BMT these lessons take place at the school on our full drum kit!

'Create music' provide small group guitar lessons which have allowed for a more competitive price point for lessons in school. Small group lessons are around a third of the cost of a one to one lesson and the school have acquired several guitars to further aid the cost effectiveness of this offering. All lessons take place in our bespoke performing arts space.

As well as outside companies, the faculty at THS provide several **free music clubs** to pupils. Whilst these can vary term by term there is always a choir club and more recently a sing and sign club has been launched to promote music to pupils who perhaps have challenges accessing conventional music. After launching successfully last year the sing and sign club have already performed twice to the whole school as part of singing assembly. Other clubs regularly offered include a Djembe drumming club and a Brass club. The Brass club is designed to take pupils in year 6 who have had previous instrumental lessons in year 5 and have shown themselves to be very adept and committed to either the trombone, cornet or trumpet and then develop them further with an eye on them joining a training band by the time they leave for secondary school. Last year's cohort were extremely successful and even performed at the Royal Albert Hall.

THS have also linked up with St Marys Church to deliver the Voice for Life programme to within school as a lunchtime club. Pupils take parts in weekly workshops with professional chorally trained practitioners and work through the Voice for Life programme whilst also performing at secular community events such as Remembrance Sunday or the Mayoral inauguration.

## Part C: Musical experiences and Performances

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.

As part of our weekly singing and music assembly pupils regularly get to watch and experience professional musicians. We regularly accommodate a professional orchestra (who also then provided a workshop the following day allowing pupils to try the instruments out), a professional drummer, professional guitar player, a professional rock ensemble, professional carol singers and a professional Djembe drummer. All of these experiences inspire pupils to make music part of their lives and think musically.

Every year we hope to accommodate the New Mozart Orchestra who perform an orchestral retelling of a well-known fairy-tale or fable. Last year the whole of KS2 took part in the Royal Opera House's zoom workshop on their production of **Die Fledermaus**. Pupils were led through a professional warm up with opera singers and

then took part in a variety of exercises designed to give pupils a flavour of the opera. This year pupils watched but also participated in a performance of *Peter and the Wolf*.

At Thomas Hickman we have made the decision to ensure that every pupil has the chance to perform musically every year to parents and their peers. Every year group must now ensure that one parent pitstop a year is a musical performance linked to their Field of Study (FOS). For example, in year 6 autumn term pupils perform songs inspired by resistance as part of their 'Stand Up, Stand Out' FOS which covers slavery, discrimination and the British Empire. In addition to these Pitstops, each year group does the following musical performance every academic year:

Nursery: World Nursery Rhyme Week, Singing Workshop with Parents

Pre-school: Christmas Songs

Reception: Nativity, End of Year Celebration Song

Year 1: London's Burning (Performance to Parents)

Year 2: Nativity

Year 3: Harvest Festival

Year 4: Musical (Wind in the Willows in 2025)

Year 5: Large scale performance (Young Voices or Echoes at Royal Albert Hall)

Year 6: Songs of protest, Shakespearean Musical Production

There is no charge to parents for any of the in school events and the school covers the transport for all pupils to and from external performances.

We have made a further commitment at THS to ensure that we take part in a large scale professional concert every year. Year 5 pupils get the opportunity to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in Buckinghamshire Music Trust's biannual Echoes event with a full orchestra and audience of VIPs and their parents. This year we are taking part in Young Voices and pupils will perform an array of pop and mainstream songs at Wembley arena!

## In the future

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

- Increase our take-up of peripatetic one to one and small group instrumental lessons through further exploration of funding to ensure no pupil is left behind.
- Broaden the use of technology in music lessons by exploring the possible procurement of Ipads with music mixing and production applications.
- Further increase use of technology to record and capture our BIRDS being musical and thinking musically.

## Further information

[Sing Up Music | Sing Up](#)

[Buckinghamshire Music Trust – Music Tuition and Ensembles Throughout Buckinghamshire \(bucksmusic.org\)](#)

[Music Lessons Near Oxford, Aylesbury and Bicester | XYZ Music Academy](#)

[Create Music \(wecreatemusic.co.uk\)](#)

[Model Music Curriculum \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[National Curriculum - Music key stages 1 to 2 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[download.asp \(thomashickmanschool.com\)](#)

[Home - Voices For Life](#)