Music Development Plan Summary

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Academic Year 2025-2026

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	Mrs Johnson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) / partnerships	Sing Up; Hertfordshire Music Service; Sacred Heart Church; The Hospice of St Francis

Part A: Curriculum Music

Music is taught weekly to all classes for one hour. The school uses Sing Up as the core music provision and follows the St Thomas More Music Curriculum Map and Music Progression Map for 2025-26. These documents provide a carefully sequenced programme from Reception to Year 6, covering singing, listening and appraising, performing, improvising, composing, notation, rhythm, pulse, pitch, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure and musical vocabulary.

The curriculum is broad and progressive. Pupils move from early experiences of pitch, pulse, vocal play, movement and sound exploration in Early Years and Key Stage 1, towards more sophisticated singing, ensemble work, composition, notation, listening and performance in Key Stage 2. The progression map includes opportunities for pupils to sing accurately and expressively, play tuned and untuned instruments, recognise and describe musical features, compose using rhythm and melody, read and create graphic or simple scores, and explore music from different traditions and genres.

Curriculum coverage

Phase / Year groups	Curriculum provision	Examples from the 2025-26 curriculum map
EYFS	Regular music learning through singing, movement, listening, vocal play, percussion and creative response.	Nursery: Let's be friends; Travel and movement; This is me; Animal tea party; I've got feelings; Let's jam. Reception: I've got a grumpy face; The sorcerer's apprentice; Witch witch; Row row row your boat; Cuckoo polka; Shake my sillies out; Up and down; Five fine bumble bees; Down there under the sea; It's oh so quiet; Slap clap clap; Bow bow bow Belinda.
Key Stage 1	Weekly music lessons develop pulse, rhythm, pitch, singing, listening, movement, composing and performance using voices, body percussion and classroom instruments.	Year 1 units include Menu song, Colonel Hathi's march, Magical musical aquarium, Football, Dawn from Sea Interludes, Musical conversations, Dancing and Drawing Nautilus, Cat and mouse and Come dance with me. Year 2 units include Tony Chestnut, Carnival of the Animals, Grandma rap, Orawa, Trains, Swing along with Shostakovich, Charlie Chaplin and Tanczymy labada.
Lower Key Stage 2	Weekly music lessons develop ensemble singing, accompaniment, improvisation, composition, notation, cultural understanding and use of musical vocabulary.	Year 3 units include I've been to Harlem, Nao chariya de / Mingulay boat song, Sound Symmetry, Latin dance, March from The Nutcracker, From a railway carriage, Just 3 notes, Samba with Sergio and Fly with the stars. Year 4 units include This Little Light of Mine, The Pink Panther theme, Composing with colour, The doot doot song, Fanfare for the Common Man, Spain, Global pentatonics, The horse in motion and Favourite song.
Upper Key Stage 2	Weekly music lessons extend pupils' performance, composition, harmony, accompaniment, listening, analysis and ensemble skills.	Year 5 units include What shall we do with the drunken sailor?, Why we sing, Introduction to songwriting, Madina tun nabi, Building a groove, Epoca, Balinese gamelan, Composing ternary form and Kisne banaaya. Year 6 units include Hey Mr Miller, Shadows, Composing for protest, Dona nobis pacem, You to me are everything, Twinkle variations, Race, Exploring identity through song and Ame sau vala tara bal.

Instrumental learning in curriculum time

- Year 3 will receive recorder lessons during the Autumn term.
- Year 5 will receive Ukulele lessons during the Spring term and also take part in Young Voices in February.
- Year 4 pupils will receive violin lessons during the Summer term.
- From 2026-27, the planned whole-class instrumental lesson offer will focus on Year 3 recorder, while the school continues Young Voices, choir and school concerts.

Singing and Catholic life

- All pupils take part in weekly whole-school hymn practice for 20 minutes.
- Pupils sing in Mass, assemblies and school liturgies, supporting the Catholic life of the school.

- The music curriculum, choir and hymn practice support pupils to develop confidence, expression, diction, pitch, rhythm and ensemble awareness.
- Seasonal productions further support pupils' musical development, including the Reception and Year 1 Christmas play in December, the Year 4 Easter show with music, and the Year 6 summer play.

Inclusion and access

- Music lessons are planned so all pupils can participate through singing, listening, movement, body percussion, tuned and untuned instruments, visual prompts, graphic notation and scaffolded composition tasks.
- Teachers adapt tasks to support pupils with SEND, including through modelling, repetition, paired/group work, simplified notation, practical resources and opportunities to respond physically, verbally or through performance.
- Pupil Premium children can access instrumental tuition and wider paid offers at a subsidised fee. The school applies this approach across paid opportunities to reduce barriers to participation.

Partnerships and staff development

- Hertfordshire Music Service supports the school's music curriculum and development of provision.
- Staff have accessed Hertfordshire Music Service fully funded Primary Music Curriculum Support twilight CPD.
- Teachers also received singing CPD during the Spring term to strengthen confidence and consistency in classroom singing and whole-school singing provision.

Part B: Co-curricular Music

Pupils have opportunities to develop their musical interests beyond weekly classroom music lessons through choir, instrumental tuition and performance opportunities.

Choir and vocal ensemble

- The school choir meets every Thursday morning in the main school hall.
- Any pupil can join the choir. The current choir includes pupils from Years 3, 5 and 6.
- Choir participation is a paid service. Pupils develop vocal confidence, ensemble awareness, listening skills, performance discipline and enjoyment of singing together.
- The school choir has sung during church services and wider community events, and will also sing at the Golden Jubilee Mass at Corpus Christi Church, Tring, at the end of June.

Instrumental tuition

- Children can learn piano with two different peripatetic piano teachers.
- Children can learn guitar and violin through peripatetic instrumental tuition.
- Pupil Premium children are able to access instruments and tuition for a subsidised fee. This remission approach applies to all paid offers where possible.
- Pupils use the music room for music lessons and instrumental learning. The hall is used for choir rehearsals and larger singing rehearsals.

Progression beyond the classroom

- Pupils who take individual or small-group instrumental lessons are encouraged to practise regularly and perform where appropriate in school concerts and assemblies.
- Choir members have opportunities to perform in school, church and community settings.

- The school will continue to work with Hertfordshire Music Service and instrumental teachers to identify further progression routes for pupils who wish to continue music beyond primary school.

Part C: Musical Experiences

St Thomas More provides a range of musical experiences across the school year so pupils can perform, listen, participate and experience music as part of school, parish and community life.

Experience	When	Who is involved	Charging / access
Weekly whole-school hymn practice	Weekly, 20 minutes	All pupils	Free
Singing in Mass, assemblies and liturgies	Throughout the year	All pupils as appropriate	Free
School choir club	Thursday mornings	Open to all pupils; currently Years 3, 5 and 6 represented	Paid
Hospice of St Francis Christmas Carol Concert at St Albans Cathedral	December	School choir performed	Free for participating pupils
Whole-school Christmas Carol Concert at Sacred Heart Church	December	Whole school / school community	Free
Young Voices	February	Year 5 pupils	Participation supported through school arrangements; subsidy available for eligible pupils where applicable
Live Christmas performance / pantomime experience	Christmas period	Pupils as audience members	Costs are kept under review; subsidy available for eligible pupils where applicable
Reception and Year 1 Christmas play	December	Reception and Year 1 pupils / school community	Free
Year 4 Easter show with music	Spring / Easter term	Year 4 pupils / school community	Free
Golden Jubilee Mass at Corpus Christi Church, Tring	End of June	School choir	Free for participating pupils
Year 6 summer play	Summer term	Year 6 pupils / school community	Free

Summer Music Concert	Summer term	Music lessons and choir performances from Years 2-6	Free

The summer music concert is planned as a celebration of curriculum music and choir, enabling pupils from Years 2 to 6 to demonstrate learning from lessons as well as wider singing and performance work. Seasonal productions, including the Reception and Year 1 Christmas play, the Year 4 Easter show with music and the Year 6 summer play, provide further opportunities for pupils to sing, perform and develop confidence. Masses and school music concerts are free for families to attend.

In the Future

The school will continue to strengthen music provision while maintaining weekly curriculum music, choir, whole-school singing and regular performance opportunities.

- Maintain weekly one-hour music lessons for each class using Sing Up, the Music Curriculum Map and the Music Progression Map.
- Continue the weekly 20-minute hymn practice to support whole-school singing, worship and Catholic life.
- Continue the Thursday morning school choir and promote choir membership across Key Stage 2, including pupils who have not previously joined.
- Continue Young Voices participation and maintain school, church, community and seasonal performance opportunities, including choir, Masses, concerts and year-group productions.
- From 2026-27, focus whole-class instrumental teaching on Year 3 recorder, ensuring this is sequenced clearly with the wider curriculum map and progression map.
- Review whether the school can develop an additional instrumental ensemble or informal performance group as more pupils access piano, guitar, violin and recorder.
- Continue to promote subsidised access for Pupil Premium pupils and ensure cost does not prevent pupils from accessing paid musical opportunities.
- Use future CPD and Hertfordshire Music Service support to further strengthen teacher confidence in singing, listening, composition, assessment and adaptive practice in music.
- Develop clearer assessment checkpoints so teachers can identify pupils' progress in singing, performance, listening, composition and notation across the year.
- Continue to ensure pupils experience live performance at least annually and explore additional opportunities for live music in school.

Further Information

- School music curriculum information is available through the St Thomas More curriculum pages: https://stmore.herts.sch.uk/Learning/Curriculum/
- The school works with Hertfordshire Music Service as the local music hub: https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/
- The school uses Sing Up as its core music curriculum resource: https://www.singup.org/
- Parents/carers interested in instrumental tuition should contact the school office for current availability, fees and subsidy arrangements.