Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	24/11/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	24/11/2027
Name of the school music lead	Emma Hopkins
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	West Sussex Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

Music is taught weekly at Thakeham Primary School in each class from EYFS to Year 6 by the class teacher, supported and guided by the music lead. In KS1 and KS2 our lessons are up to 60 minutes long.

Our music curriculum has been written by our music lead following the model music curriculum and rooted in the Kodály spiral music curriculum. This is a sequential, cumulative approach to music education inspired by Zoltán Kodály's philosophy and Jerome Bruner's cognitive theory of learning. Instead of teaching a musical concept once and moving on, a spiral curriculum continuously revisits fundamental elements—such as beat, rhythm, pitch, and form—at deeper, more complex levels as the pupil progresses through the school.

Every music lesson is planned to develop the following key areas of musical learning: listening, singing, composing and performing and appraising. The children are taught how these elements are all intertwined and deepen the children's appreciation for music as an art form.

All children experience a weekly singing assembly, and singing is an integral part of all other assemblies. Children in KS1 learn to play the boom whackers through reading non-standard notation and explore and compose using the full range of untuned percussion. Children in Year 3 and 4 learn to play the ukelele and in Year 5 and 6, they revisit their ukulele learning, learn to compose using standard notation and perform on both the recorder and glockenspiel.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Thakeham Primary School, we have an inspirational KS2 choir who rehearse weekly with our music lead. The choir performs regularly at school events such as Harvest Festivals, the Christmas nativity, Christmas and summer fairs, and we always look for opportunities to take our choir out to sing in the community. Singing at a local care home at Christmas time and as part of the Thakeham Village Day are just some of the experiences we can offer the children. All children in KS2 can join our choir.

As the school year progresses, small upper KS2 music groups use their lunchtimes to practice and rehearse for performances leading up to a variety of events.

We work alongside West Sussex Music Service to ensure we can offer our children the best musical experiences. Our Year 3 and 4 children visit the Assembly Rooms in Worthing to watch the Worthing Symphony orchestra's school concert. Annually, we take part in the 'Big Sing' and the 'Little Big Sing' where the children experience musical leadership under a music specialist within the service.

We also take the opportunity to experience the choral days at Christ's Hospital School in their beautiful chapel led by their musical director.

We invite the West Sussex Music Service into school to lead assemblies and to offer one-to one or small group tuition. We also have connections with Sussex Academy of Music and local independent music teachers. We have ample space in school for music lessons and we look for opportunities to support our pupil premium children to access these experiences.

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.

Children at Thakeham Primary School have many opportunities to rehearse and perform at a variety of opportunities.

Our whole school musical highlight of the year is our March Music Festival. This has been a part of the Thakeham musical year for a decade now. From the start of the school year through to March, the children develop their performance repertoire in preparation for a whole afternoon of musical performances in front of a full audience. This festival also invites guest musicians in to further inspire the children. Previous guests have included a local rock band, a flute quartet, a pianist, a guitarist and a Samba experience.

Other musical experience include:

- Harvest Festival
- EYFS Christmas Nativity
- Whole school Christmas Nativity
- Christmas Carol Concert
- Easter Service
- Choir Choral day at Christ's Hospital School
- Various choir performances within the community
- Year 1 & 2 drumming workshop (West Sussex Music Service)
- The music 'Talent Spot' at the Summer Fair
- Year 5 and Year 6 Summer Production

In the future

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

At Thakeham Primary School, our musical goals are:

- To develop a register of children regularly receiving individual or small group music lessons.
- To complete a review of our current music scheme to ensure it has built in opportunities to enhance the link to the wider curriculum in each planning cycle.
- To complete a review of our current music scheme to ensure it reflects a diverse musical diet.
- To give support to all teachers to continue their understanding of the music curriculum and to support their professional development.
- To give support for all teachers to be able to assess music and understand what working at expected and greater depth in music looks like.