Music development plan summary: Thornhill Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	01/09/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	01/09/27
Name of the school music lead	Martin Szwaba
Name of local music hub	Music Education Islignton (MEI)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Kapow Primary MEI External Music Teacher Leading School Ensemble

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 Thornhill Primary School, all year groups from Reception to Year 6 take part in weekly music lessons. Teachers follow the structured Kapow Primary music curriculum, which supports the delivery of high-quality, engaging and progressive music teaching. In Nursery, children are introduced to music through short, focused sessions where they explore singing familiar nursery rhymes, songs and action songs.

Thornhill Primary School provides a broad and balanced music education across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Each class receives a dedicated weekly music lesson of at least one hour, based on the Kapow Primary curriculum. The music curriculum is carefully sequenced to develop pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding across the key areas of performing, composing, listening and appraising. Pupils are exposed to a wide range of musical styles, genres, cultures and historical periods, supporting them to develop as confident and well-rounded musicians.

Pupils have regular opportunities to develop their singing and instrumental skills through whole-class and small-group activities. Music lessons provide opportunities for pupils to perform, compose, improvise, listen and respond to music, and develop their understanding of musical vocabulary and notation.

Evidence of learning and progression is recorded through Seesaw and the school's music floor book, which captures key learning, musical experiences and examples of pupils' development.

The school provides opportunities for pupils to extend their musical learning beyond the classroom. A school ensemble currently meets every Monday lunchtime, supported by a specialist music teacher. The ensemble currently consists of seven pupils who rehearse a range of songs and develop their skills in performing together. The group is working towards performing at school events throughout the year, providing pupils with a meaningful opportunity to develop confidence, teamwork and performance skills.

Thornhill Primary School also works in partnership with Music Education Islington, who provide specialist music tuition to enhance the curriculum in Year 3 and Year 5. Pupils receive recorder and cello tuition across the academic year, providing opportunities to develop instrumental technique and experience specialist teaching.

Throughout the year, pupils have a range of opportunities to share and celebrate their musical learning with an audience. These include weekly singing assemblies, ensemble performances, Christmas concerts, class assemblies, Key Stage productions, the Year 6 end-of-year production, summer fairs and Singlington events.

Overall, our curriculum music provision aims to ensure that all pupils have regular opportunities to experience, create and perform music. Through curriculum lessons, specialist tuition, ensemble opportunities and performances, pupils develop their musical knowledge and skills alongside confidence, creativity, collaboration and a lifelong enjoyment of music.

Further information about what pupils learn in each year group, together with the school's long-term music planning, can be found on the school website.

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.

Pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 have opportunities to develop their musical interests beyond the core curriculum through a range of enrichment activities and musical experiences.

The school currently provides a school ensemble, supported by a specialist music teacher. The ensemble meets every Monday lunchtime and currently consists of seven pupils. Pupils rehearse a range of songs together, developing their instrumental, vocal and ensemble skills, as well as their confidence and ability to perform as part of a group. The ensemble is working towards performing at school events throughout the year.

Pupils also have opportunities to learn the piano through a tutor from Music Education Islington. Through the school's enrichment programme, further musical opportunities are offered, including Year 2 drumming workshops, Music exploration through Music Tree and Reception Rhythm and Pulse sessions. These opportunities enable pupils to experience different musical activities, develop their musical interests and build confidence beyond the core music curriculum.

The school aims to ensure that co-curricular music opportunities are accessible and inclusive, enabling pupils to participate in music regardless of their prior experience or level of musical ability.

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.

Thornhill Primary School provides a wide range of musical experiences, including:

- Weekly singing assemblies, supported by Charanga resources.
- Performances by the school ensemble at school events, as opportunities arise.
- Singing at key celebration events, including leavers' assemblies.
- Class productions at Christmas and the Year 6 end-of-year production.
- Class assemblies, providing opportunities for pupils to perform to an audience.
- Singlington events.
- Live music opportunities during assemblies, including performances by parents and members of the school community, such as cello and violin performances.
- Musical enrichment workshops, including Year 2 drumming.
- Opportunities to attend London Symphony Orchestra primary events.
- Music Education Islington assemblies and musical experiences.
- Performances by Year 3 recorder and Year 5 cello pupils during the academic year.

These experiences enrich pupils' musical understanding and provide opportunities for pupils to perform, listen to and respond to live music, develop confidence as musicians and experience music in a range of contexts.

In the future

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

Our Music Development Plan aims to:

- Continue to build and strengthen partnerships with local music hubs and external providers
- Look to provided high-quality CPD (Continuing Professional Development) to improve staff confidence and expertise in teaching music
- Introduce a wider range of instruments for small-group and individual tuition
- Increase participation in extra-curricular music, particularly for Pupil Premium and SEND pupils
- Explore opportunities for music-related trips and live performances