

Music development plan summary: St Thomas a Becket Primary School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	07.09.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	07.09.26
Name of the school music lead	Natasha Erscott
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Chloe Stobbart
Name of local music hub	GSW Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Salisbury Music Collective

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 St Thomas à Becket Primary School, music is taught as part of a broad and ambitious curriculum that fosters a life-long love of music. In curriculum lessons, pupils are encouraged to listen and respond to a wide range of musical styles and genres, as well as to develop their skills as singers, performers and composers. As children progress through the school, they gain an increasing understanding of the interrelated dimensions of music – pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure – and how these elements are used to create and communicate meaning. Weekly teaching is supported by a visiting peripatetic teacher, who enhances the breadth of musical opportunities available to pupils, particularly through instrumental tuition and performance. Pupils are provided with at least an hour a week to explore, perform and create music as part of their classroom learning, with scope to develop further through extra-curricular activities and specialist input. Our curriculum is constructed using the Charanga Model Music Curriculum.

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.

Beyond the classroom, music plays an important role in the wider life of St Thomas à Becket Primary School. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of co-curricular opportunities that enrich their musical learning and foster confidence, teamwork and creativity. Regular events such as assemblies, church services and seasonal performances provide platforms for children to share their singing and instrumental skills with the school community and families. In addition, peripatetic teachers offer specialist instrumental tuition, enabling pupils to develop their musical talents further and, where appropriate, to work towards graded music examinations or other forms of external recognition. These experiences are complemented by opportunities to join ensembles or choirs, ensuring that children can experience the joy of making music

collaboratively as well as individually. All children are involved in a performance every year.

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.

Pupils at St Thomas à Becket Primary School benefit from a wide variety of enriching musical experiences that extend learning beyond the classroom. In recent years, children have attended performances by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, giving them the opportunity to experience live orchestral music of the highest quality. They have also taken part in large-scale events such as *Young Voices* and *Voice in a Million*, where they joined thousands of other pupils in singing to professional standards in major venues – unforgettable experiences that help to build confidence, aspiration and a sense of belonging to a wider musical community. In addition, pupils perform alongside other EQUA Mead schools at the annual concert, strengthening partnerships across the trust and enabling our children to share their music-making on a larger stage. These experiences, combined with school-based performances and community events, ensure that all pupils encounter the joy and excitement of music in a variety of settings.

In the future

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

Looking ahead, St Thomas à Becket Primary School aims to strengthen and expand the musical opportunities available to pupils. From September 2025, a specialist music teacher has joined the staff, enabling us to provide a richer and more consistent curriculum and to offer greater expertise across all year groups. A key focus will be on developing pupils' creativity through increased opportunities for improvisation and composition, allowing children to experiment with their own musical ideas and deepen their understanding of how music is created. We also plan to broaden pupils' experiences of collective music-making by establishing more opportunities to sing and perform together, both within school and alongside other schools in the EQUA Mead Trust. In addition, we will invite visiting musicians and opera performers into school to inspire pupils and provide insight into professional music-making, while trips to the theatre and live concerts will further extend their cultural and creative horizons.

Further information (optional)

St Thomas à Becket Primary School values the strong partnerships it has established with organisations that support and promote high-quality music education. We work closely with the Salisbury Music Collective, which provides performance opportunities and specialist input that help to raise the profile of music within our school and community. In addition, we collaborate with the GSW (Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire) Music Hub, whose resources, training and events enable us to enrich our curriculum provision and ensure progression in pupils' musical learning. Through the hub, our staff access professional development and support, while pupils benefit from workshops, large-scale performances and access to instrumental tuition schemes. These partnerships not only enhance the range of experiences available to our children but also ensure that music remains a central and celebrated part of school life. We also benefit from being part of the EQUA Mead Learning Trust, which enables our pupils to perform and celebrate music collectively with other schools, strengthening a shared commitment to the arts across the trust.