Music development plan summary: St Thomas More School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss Gallagher/Miss Wheeler
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr McLoughlin
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Service
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

At St Thomas More School, we teach music weekly across the school from Reception to Year 6. In addition to music lessons, we also deliver collective worship and whole school hymn practice. Each music lesson begins with a Let's Listen task which covers a variety of genres, musicians and time periods. Children are then asked to recall information from prior lessons to ensure key knowledge and skills are embedded before continuing with their learning. During music lessons, knowledge and skills are taught through a combination of practical and written tasks. Whole class instrument tuition is taught by a trained musician in Year 4. Our curriculum has been designed with the Model Music Curriculum at the forefront and we work closely with our local music hub, the Birmingham Music Service, in order to deliver an ambitious and knowledge rich curriculum.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

St Thomas More offers a variety of co-curricular music activities including: opportunities to continue learning an instrument for those pupils who wish to continue after their class tuition in Year 4 ends; participation in the academy ensemble; school choir; regular MAC productions; musical performances, Year 6 end of year production, KS1 and EYFS Nativity, and Easter production. These activities provide students with opportunities to further develop and showcase their musical talents outside the regular curriculum.

To enhance the co-curricular music programme, potential next steps could include:

- Expanding the range of instruments offered for peripatetic lessons to cater to diverse student interests.
- Organising more community music events or collaborations to showcase students' musical achievements.
- Introducing music workshops or masterclasses with professional musicians to inspire and mentor students in their musical journey.

Part C: Musical experiences

St Thomas More provides a rich array of musical experiences for its students, including: singing in mass and assembly; Christmas and Easter concerts; participation in the annual academy showcase; visits from local musicians and school music concerts. Some experiences are provided free of charge to enable all children to take part a variety of musical experiences. Some music lessons and staff CPD is provided by a music specialist from the MAC secondary school.

Potential next steps:

- Organise more frequent community performances or collaborations with other schools.
- Explore virtual musical experiences or digital initiatives to engage students in music beyond the school setting.
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in music competitions or festivals to showcase their talents and receive feedback.

In the future

Looking ahead, St Thomas More aims to establish and grow the school choir and offer a wider range of musical opportunities for students. These future plans will create a platform for students to collaborate, perform, and develop their musical skills in a group setting. To successfully implement these future initiatives, potential next steps could include:

- Attending Young Voices or Youth Proms.
- Musical theatre workshops.