Music development plan summary: Thomas Harding Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	17.07.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Jaime Johal
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Bucks Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

School Vision

At Thomas Harding all children are offered a broad and balanced curriculum. Our music units are sequenced to ensure that all children build on their musical skills and knowledge so links can be made and built upon both within and across year groups. As pupils progress through the school, their growing musical knowledge will deepen their understanding and appreciation of music and they will develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose and listen to the best examples of music from a wide range of genres and time periods.

The curriculum is designed to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their own talent as musicians. The curriculum allows all pupils to acquire a wealth of knowledge and skills as the sequence and selection of topics builds on previous units and feeds forward - towards future learning. Children will have the opportunity to understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions of music: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure.

Our curriculum gives all pupils the opportunity to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions including the works of great composers and musicians, developing children's ability to ASPIRE highly.

All will learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others. We believe that it is essential that each pupil has the opportunity to learn

a musical instrument, to use appropriate musical notations, and also to use technology appropriately.

The children leave Thomas Harding with an appreciation of the joy of music and the skills to listen to, compose, perform and appraise musical pieces.

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.

Music is taught for 50 minutes per week by class teachers, either as a single block or split into 2 sessions over the week. The curriculum that is followed is the Sing Up Scheme.

The school has a set of Glockenspiels, as well as various percussion instruments, which the children use alongside their Sing Up lessons. The children build on their proficiency each academic year.

Lessons also take into consideration children with SEND. Accessible materials and instruments are provided.

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.

In addition to whole-class music lessons, there are opportunities for private instrument lessons in school. Flute, violin, cello, guitar, piano and trumpet lessons are offered by Bucks Music Trust, and drum lessons are offered by MD Drumming. These are 30-minute, weekly sessions. Parents pay for these lessons privately; however, there are some students who have lessons paid through our pupil premium fund.

There is an after-school choir club open to all children throughout the year. During the year, children from the choir take part in a choir concert; in previous years, this has been the Young Voices concert at the 02 or Wembley Area.

The organisation Rocksteady come to our school once per week, providing instruments and tuition to children who are members. This is paid for by parents through the Rocksteady organisation. The children are arranged into rock bands, who perform for the school in a termly concert. Parents of the participating children are invited to attend.

All children participate in a Christmas performance and have the opportunity to perform in an additional summer production and weekly assemblies.

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.

There are plenty of opportunities for the children to perform and experience music outside of the curriculum.

We have a weekly music assembly, led by the music lead, when children learn and sing songs from a variety of genres, time periods and cultures. Music assemblies also incorporate listening to pieces of music; and there are some assemblies where children learn about a particular artist or genre of music. One every half-term, there is music performance assembly, where children who play an instrument have the opportunity to perform for their peers.

At the end of the Autumn Term, the whole school takes part in the Christmas Production. The cast consists of a group of children, taken from all year groups; however, the whole school is involved in the singing. Parents are invited, free of charge, to watch this event.

In the Summer Term, the school holds its Summer Production. The cast consists of the Drama Club and choir children across various year groups, or the year 6 classes. There is a dress-rehearsal, which all children from the school attend. The Y2 children from Elmtree Infant School also attend this performance. There are then 2 evening performances for parents, for which they pay a small fee, which goes back into the school's music fund.

In the future

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

The plan in the future is to:

- Develop our relationship with Bucks Music hub to reap the maximum benefits of their knowledge and resources.
- Organise a whole-school carol service for the Winter Production.
- Organise workshops based around music