2025-26 Music development plan summary: Thorntree Academy

Thorntree Academy believes that Music contributes to the holistic educational experience of pupils. It is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. Our belief is that a child's success in music has positive effects on their self-confidence, sense of achievement and ability to work as a team. We want our children to see true value in being future musicians.

Lessons will provide opportunities for pupils to critically engage with music. They will be given the chance to perform with their voice and with instruments, in class and on stage; analyse music to understand all the pieces that make up a piece of music; and compose their own music with an emphasis on self-expression and team work to produce a final piece that they can be proud of. We teach music through the Charanga scheme of work.

Music lessons will happen once a week with an hour duration in KS1 and KS2, taught internally by the staff here at Thorntree under the guidance of the Long term plan set out by music lead, Mr Cassidy. EYFS pupils will regularly have the opportunity to sing simple songs like nursery rhymes and work towards a small Christmas performance. Pupils will be given the opportunity to join a school choir throughout the school year with rehearsals taking place weekly in an after school club. Children in this club will be rehearsing for enjoyment but also working towards performing to audiences in the form of Christmas carolling events and inter-school events such as EXTOL Sings. In music lessons, children will have access to a range of percussion and tuned instruments and be exposed to many genres within music and the features that make them unique.

Once a year, Thorntree will invite a live performing group to school to perform to the entire school during school hours, such as in the form of a pantomime or play.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	16.01.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	01.09.26
Name of the school music lead	Mark Cassidy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	TVMS
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Apollo Arts Studio

The following 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.

Music lessons will happen once a week with an hour duration in KS1 and KS2, taught internally by the staff here at Thorntree under the guidance of the Long term plan set out by music lead, Mr Cassidy. EYFS pupils will regularly have the opportunity to sing simple songs like nursery rhymes and work towards a small Christmas performance. In music lessons, children will :

- Be taught using the Kapow Music Scheme. This scheme provides easy to follow units of work that cover the music curriculum for each year group.
- Be given opportunities to access to a range of instruments, including percussions instruments like drums, tambourines, glockenspiels etc. within the Kapow scheme.
- Be encouraged to express themselves, perform in front of others and celebrate themselves and others.

Children with SEN needs will have support in order to have the same opportunities as everyone else in music. The type of support will depend on the type of need. The type of support will include:

- Ear defenders to reduce sensitivity to noise.
- Small group work within the lesson with an adult if needed, in a different space simultaneous to the lesson.
- Being provided with instruments that are the most suitable for their needs.

Part B: Extra-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 will be given the opportunity to join a school choir throughout the school year with rehearsals taking place weekly in an after-school club. Children in this club will be rehearsing for enjoyment but also working towards performing to audiences in the form of Christmas carolling events and inter-school events such as EXTOL Sings. The singing after school club is free and lead by our Music Lead, Mr Cassidy.

Pupils across school are also invited to singing assemblies at least once a week. This takes place in our Performance Hall. This is lead by Mr Cassidy who uses a mixture of backing tracks and guitar to support the children to sing along. Here at Thorntree, we expose the children to a range of songs to sing along to, from traditional school assembly songs to pop and rock classics. Mr Cassidy has also introduced three school anthems that the children sing at other assemblies such as the weekly celebration assembly.

Children will also be given opportunities to perform with instruments outside of school, such as the Reindeer Parade in Middlesbrough Town Centre.

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 across school are invited to singing assemblies at least once a week. This takes place in our Performance Hall or the Main Hall, or within classrooms if done within Key stages. If singing assemblies are done within key stages, KS1 assemblies are lead by Mr Cassidy (Music Lead) and KS2 assemblies are lead by Mr Johnston (KS2 lead). Here at Thorntree, we expose the children to a range of songs to sing along to, from traditional school assembly songs to pop and rock classics. Mr Cassidy has also introduced two school anthems that the children sing at other assemblies such as the weekly celebration assembly.

There are two main performances that the children can work towards – the Christmas performance (KS1 and KS2 separately) and EXTOL SINGS. Children attending after school singing club are also given the opportunity to perform in the local area in the lead up to Christmas, performing Christmas Carols in places such as residential homes and places of high pedestrian traffic such as Teesside International Airport.

In the future

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

Thorntree intends to continuously improve on the music curriculum that we offer to the pupils.

We intend on:

- Introducing a singing competition that all year groups can take part in (Summer term). Prize – small bag of sweets/chocolate reward for all pupils who took part and won.
- Begin using the Kapow Music scheme and monitor its effectiveness on pupil progress and teacher workload compared to the previous use of Charanga.
- Increasing the amount of tuned and percussion instruments we can provide the children in lessons.
- Continue to expose the children to professional live music alongside drama and pantomime performances e.g. inviting live bands to play at school during events if possible.
- Provide opportunities for outside agencies to come in and work with children in a musical setting.

Further information (optional)