

Music development plan summary:



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Melanie Fisher
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Saffron Hall

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.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School follows the national curriculum for teaching music and is informed by the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum, published by the DfE in March 2021. Each class is taught music for one hour overall each week – this is via class lessons and singing assemblies. The music curriculum for each year group is outlined in the curriculum maps for each year group and published on the school’s website. We follow the Charanga Scheme of Work alongside our own adapted bespoke music curriculum. Children in Year 3 have the opportunity to play the violin through whole-class ensemble teaching, delivered by the Essex Schools’ Music Service. Our music lead teaches the whole class to play the ukulele in Year 5.

As a Catholic school we have at least weekly opportunities to gather in song and music. Additionally, we have close links with the music group at our local parish church, as well as opportunities to meet with music leads from other local schools to enhance and refine knowledge and skills.

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.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School offers private one to one lessons in KS2. We have a large group of instrumental teachers offering lessons in piano, drums, guitar, flute, saxophone, clarinet, recorder and violin. There are opportunities for children to work towards music exams. There is a KS2 choir and orchestra, which are inclusive and free to attend. We participate in the annual Spirit of Christmas concert with the Saffron Walden Choral Society and other local schools. The school owns a number of violins and children are able to have these on loan for a small fee. We are also supported by the Essex Music Hub.

We promote local music opportunities where children can progress in music, including Saffron Centre for Young Musicians (SYCM), the Saffron Music Festival and Saffron Walden Children's Orchestra (SWCO).

The school is fortunate to have a dedicated, well-equipped music room, along with an individual practice room.

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.

At St Thomas More, the pupils have daily opportunities to experience music during Prayer and Liturgy. Within this time, children can sing, listen to music and/or interpret music. At times, we welcome identified pupils to accompany liturgy using their own musical talents, for example, using the piano. Each week there is a Liturgical Music assembly, in which the entire focus is practising liturgical hymns, psalms and responses. Alongside the above, the children also participate in a whole-class assembly to their peers and families, which involves opportunities for singing, performing and occasionally use of instruments. Each year, every KS2 class holds a Tea Concert for parents, showcasing a range of musical talents, including individual performances, a whole class ensemble and choir. There are many opportunities for the children to perform throughout the year, including whole-school masses, KS1 Nativity and KS2 Christmas Concert, Carol singing to local care homes, KS1 Summer Concert, individual performances and

the KS2 Play. The school has close links with Saffron Hall, where the children participate in high quality musical concerts, Benedetti workshops and other events.

We plan opportunities throughout the year for the children to listen to visiting professional musicians, such as folk groups, drummers and also local amateur groups, such as a local woodwind bands. We also take advantage of any educational projects offered by Saffron Hall's Education Programme. This year, our children in Years 5 and 6 will be participating in a new opera workshop around the theme of climate change, called *Uprising*.

The feedback from parents, pupils and wider communities is positive and uplifting.

In the future

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

We hope to develop the brass provision in the school, starting with a demonstration from a local brass teacher to promote the instruments and inspire the children, with the aim for children to be able to learn a brass instrument.