

Music development plan summary: Kilnhurst St Thomas' Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ryan Turner
Name of local music hub	Rotherham School Music services
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Charanga Rocksteady Music School

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.

Details of our ambitious music curriculum can be found on our website:

<https://www.stthomas-kilnhurst.co.uk/curriculum/curriculum-subjects/music/>

Our music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021), non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3.

Inclusive Music Teaching

In music lessons at St Thomas', we aim to nurture creativity and independence in all pupils as developing musicians. To support this, instructions are adapted to meet individual needs—this may include simplifying language, using visual aids, and modelling each step of the learning process. All children are encouraged to actively participate, rather than observe.

For pupils with physical needs, additional support is provided to ensure they can access instruments and fully engage in lessons. Our provision is flexible and responsive, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed in music.

Further details about our SEND offer can be found on the school website.

<https://www.stthomas-kilnhurst.co.uk/key-information/send/>

Weekly Music Lessons

All pupils at Kilnhurst St Thomas receive weekly music lessons lasting between 30 and 45 minutes. In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the foundations of music are embedded within the wider curriculum and provision, supporting early development in rhythm, pitch, and musical expression

Charanga Music Curriculum

At St Thomas', we use the Charanga scheme as a core component of our music curriculum, informed by the Model Music Curriculum. Lessons focus on developing musicianship through listening, appraising, singing, and performing. Each unit includes a *Musical Spotlight* and a *Social Question*, guiding structured sequences of learning across key musical areas.

Charanga supports the school with curriculum resources, CPD opportunities, 1:1 virtual support, and a dedicated contact for ongoing development and improvement.

To complement this, pupils in Years 2–6 follow a bespoke recorder programme developed by school leaders, ensuring progression in instrumental skills and musical notation throughout their time at primary school.

Instrumental Music Provision

- Pupils in Years 2–6 follow a bespoke recorder programme alongside the Charanga scheme, designed by music leads and senior leaders to ensure progression in instrumental skills and musical notation.
- Charanga supports the school with a structured music curriculum, CPD, 1:1 virtual support, and a dedicated contact for ongoing development.
- The school's Music Specialist delivers 1:1 and small group instrumental lessons, with regular opportunities for performance.
- Pupils have the opportunity to participate annually in Young Voices, a large-scale arena performance, funded through voluntary parental contributions.

Pupils at St Thomas' have the opportunity to attend the Young Voices performance each year.

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.

Through our partnership with the Rotherham School Music Service, children in Key Stage 2 are given the opportunity to learn a stringed instrument (guitar) as part of their wider music education. Lessons are delivered by a qualified music specialist and are available in both group and individual formats.

Pupils participating in these lessons are encouraged to perform regularly, including in school assemblies, for parents, and at external events. These performance opportunities support the development of confidence, musicality, and presentation skills, and contribute to a vibrant school culture that celebrates the arts.

In addition to scheduled performances, children are given opportunities throughout the year to share their progress with peers, helping to foster a sense of achievement and community through music.

As part of our commitment to inclusive and enriching arts education, the school partners with Rocksteady Music School to offer in-school, band-based music lessons. These sessions provide pupils with the opportunity to learn instruments including drums, keyboard, bass, electric guitar, and vocals in a collaborative band setting. All instruments are provided, removing barriers to participation.

The programme supports the development of key skills such as confidence, teamwork, communication, and emotional wellbeing. Pupils follow a structured curriculum aligned with a 300-skill progression framework and have the opportunity to achieve an Ofqual-regulated, exam-free qualification.

To ensure equitable access, bursary places are available for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils through Rocksteady's Foundation programme. The school uses a dedicated portal to manage lessons and access funding support, helping us to ensure that all children, regardless of background or prior experience, can benefit from high-quality music education.

End-of-term concerts provide a platform for pupils to celebrate their progress and build performance confidence in a supportive environment.

The school choir, led by Mrs Hall and Ms Newman and supported by the local church, runs as an after-school activity for Key Stage 2 pupils every Tuesday. The choir explores a range of traditional and contemporary songs, providing children with opportunities to develop musical skills and express themselves creatively.

Choir members regularly perform during Collective Worship, at school Christmas services, and in the wider community, helping to strengthen links between the school and local organisations. Performances also contribute to pupils' personal development, particularly in building confidence and presentation skills.

The choir operates on a termly intake basis and is offered free of charge to ensure accessibility for all pupils, including those eligible for Pupil Premium. The provision is

particularly targeted at children who may benefit from additional support with self-esteem and confidence, aligning with the school's commitment to inclusive enrichment opportunities.

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.

As part of Worship

At Kilnhurst St Thomas, singing is an integral part of our Collective Worship, with all pupils from Reception to Year 6 participating regularly. One weekly session is dedicated to explicitly teaching songs, supporting musical progression and engagement across the school. Each half term includes a musical focus that is reflected in both Collective Worship and classroom activities.

Children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 rehearse and perform a nativity or secular seasonal play during the autumn term, providing opportunities to develop confidence and expressive skills through performance. Pupils in Key Stage 2 take part in a traditional Christmas choir concert, showcasing their musical learning and contributing to the school's festive celebrations.

These activities support pupils' spiritual, cultural, and personal development, while strengthening community links and promoting a shared sense of celebration and achievement.

Singing Groups

All children who take part in singing, choir, or instrumental groups are given the opportunity to perform for parents during music assemblies held throughout the academic year. These events celebrate pupils' progress and promote confidence through public performance.

The school also participates annually in Young Voices, the largest school choir concert in the country, held at a local arena. A group of Key Stage 2 pupils represent the school at this event, which provides a unique opportunity to perform as part of a large-scale choir alongside professional musicians. Participation is supported through voluntary contributions from parents of the children involved.

These experiences form part of our wider commitment to enriching the curriculum through music and performance, supporting pupils' personal development and fostering a strong sense of community and achievement.

Fees

The school offers a range of music opportunities to support pupils' creative development and wellbeing. Individual and small group music lessons are available for

Key Stage 2 pupils and are delivered by the Rotherham School Music Service. Parents can pay for these lessons via the Arbor platform.

In addition, Rocksteady Music School provides subsidised, band-based music lessons within the school. Parents who opt into this programme pay Rocksteady directly. These lessons include access to instruments and are designed to be inclusive and accessible, with bursary places available for disadvantaged pupils.

The school choir is a free after-school activity for Key Stage 2 children, led by Mrs Hall and Ms Newman with support from the local church. The choir welcomes a new intake each term and is open to all pupils, including those eligible for Pupil Premium. It is particularly aimed at children who may benefit from additional support with confidence and self-esteem. Choir members perform regularly in Collective Worship, at school events, and within the local community.

In the future

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

- School Choir continues year-round, representing Kilnhurst St Thomas at school and community events, supporting pupil confidence, teamwork, and belonging.
- Rocksteady Music School offers band-based music education with termly performances to celebrate progress and achievement.
- An annual Music Celebration Assembly showcases whole-school musical engagement, including singing, instrumental work, and group performances.
- A group of Key Stage 2 pupils will take part in Young Voices in January, performing at a large-scale arena event.