

Music development plan summary:

St Thomas' CE Primary School (Halliwell)

Intent:

At St Thomas' music is an important contribution to the life of our school and is celebrated, promoted and encouraged. It helps build pupils' self-esteem and self-discipline and leads to higher standards across the curriculum. St Thomas' embraces and acknowledges the transformational power that music brings to pupils, staff and parents alongside the wider whole school community. We believe that music: boosts pupil social development, it improves learning skills, it fosters team working, builds life skills, underpins better behaviour, encourages creativity, it is an educational building block, it is for life, it is fun and it is for everyone.

...Music is an essential part of a broad and ambitious curriculum for all pupils. It must not be the preserve of the privileged few. Music should be planned and taught as robustly as any other foundation curriculum subject, as exemplified in the Model Music Curriculum we published last year.
(*The Power of Music to Change Lives, DfE June 2022, page 4*)

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Chloe Conroy
Name of local music hub	Bolton & Blackburn with Darwen Music Service Alfa Education Music provision

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.

Implementation

Singing is at the heart of St Thomas' so we have alternated weeks of whole school singing assemblies whereby singing skills from the curriculum are taught. We also attend weekly Worship time in our school Church where these singing skills are further embedded.

EYFS

Music in the early years is, at first, exploratory and sensory. Children are encouraged to respond to sounds and music and offer their thoughts and feelings about it. Songs are shared, learned and created! Children explore pitch, rhythm and melody in many ways including the use of the Sparkyard scheme. Children use instruments to express their feelings and ideas and are encouraged to perform both as a soloist and in groups. Singing is embedded into every area of the Early Years curriculum, including Maths, Literacy and Topic.

[Please click on this link for the Primary National Curriculum for music](#)

In order to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum the following provision is provided at St Thomas'

KS1

Working in Partnership with ALFA Education Music Provision, each class in KS1 receive a weekly 40-minute whole class curriculum support music lesson.

Year 1 and 2 Curriculum Support – Thursday afternoons 1pm-3pm

LKS2

Children in Year 3 and 4 are provided with 'First access to music lessons' delivered by ALFA music provision. These are whole class instrumental tuition lessons which last 40 minutes per class.

Year 3 and 4 'First access' – Friday afternoons 1.15pm-3.15pm

UKS2

Working in Partnership with ALFA Education Music Provision, children in Years 5 and 6 receive a weekly 40-minute whole class curriculum support music lesson.

As a school we also subscribe to Sparkyard and use this as part of our planning and teaching tool throughout school. All teachers and support staff are fully committed to Music lessons and use them as CPD opportunities to further enhance their music teaching skills.

Our school music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021),

Assessment in music is formative, developmental assessment e.g. in the moment feedback that is part of the ongoing process of learning. Evaluating pupils' work through listening, identifying, and correcting/ suggesting/ celebrating is what assessment in music is all about. As a school we use the ALFA Music Assessment statements, focusing on the most important knowledge and skills that pupils need in order for them to learn the whole music curriculum.

Inclusion in music means everyone having an equal opportunity to participate meaningfully. Each person's journey will look and feel different with a variety of outcomes possible – musical, personal and social. The National Plan for Music Education (DfE, 2012) states that music is a right for every child, whatever their circumstances or disabling barriers they may face including.

Here at St Thomas' we ensure Equality of Opportunity for all pupils and ensure that all pupil including those with SEND take part in music lessons.

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.

Music tuition

St Thomas' is committed to increasing the opportunities for children to play music outside of the classroom.

Some music tuition is free of charge, this includes:

- Guitar lessons are provided weekly at lunch times for 30 minutes by Madame Bridges. This club is available for UKS2 children.
- St Thomas' has a well-established choir who practise every Thursday after school for 45 minutes with Alfa Music provision. Our choir performs throughout the year at various events (please see Part C – Musical Experiences)
- Rocksteady music school are working hard to establish a band which practise in Church every Tuesday for 30 minutes.

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.

Performance Timetable 2026 2027						
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Whole School	Harvest Festival in Church	Talent Show		Talent Show		Talent Show Let Your Light Shine Festival
EYFS		Sing Along Christmas		EYFS Talent Show		EYFS Talent Show
KS1		Nativity				
KS2		Christmas Carol Service BWFC Christmas Concert				
Choir	Harvest Festival	Christmas Carol Service Singing at a number of residential care homes BWFC Christmas Concert				LYLS Festival

Further Information:

The **Harvest Festival** involves children from all year groups singing and playing instruments to their chosen song and performing to the whole school and parents, friends and family are invited.

The **Christmas Carol Service is for KS2 children**. They sing a song (sometimes including instruments) and this is then performed to KS1, parents, friends and family in Church.

KS1 children perform in the **Christmas Nativity** which takes place in the hall and parents are invited to watch. They too perform for KS2 children.

The EYFS have a separate '**Sing Along Christmas Songs**' event which takes place in the hall and parents, friends and family are invited to watch.

Every term we hold a St Thomas' **Talent Show** where children are invited to perform their chosen talent. This includes a range of performances including singing. Children who take part in music clubs outside of the classroom are also invited to perform in this.

The **EYFS talent show** is held in the Spring and Summer term which takes place in the classroom and children perform in front of their peers.

The specialist teachers from the **ALFA perform** with their classes (KS1 and 2) to showcase their learning for the term, this may be performing a song they have been learning or an instrumental performance. This is held in the Hall and the whole school is invited to watch

The annual '**Let Your Light Shine festival**' takes place in the Summer term this involves every Year group performing in front of the whole school, parents, friends and family to showcase an element of their learning throughout the year.

Previously we have held '**ISing Pop**' concerts in Church whereby children perform a number of newly taught Christian value songs to parent, friends and family.

The school **Choir** takes part in a number of annual events including the Harvest Festival and the BWFC Christmas concert. They sing at a number of residential care homes during the Christmas period.

Opportunities to watch live performances include:

- BWFC Christmas concert provides the opportunity for children to watch live music
- We have an annual Musical Theatre Performance trip for the whole school.
- Rocksteady music school perform live to all of the school in a daily workshop where children are also invite to take part

In the future

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

- Continuing to provide teachers with CPD opportunities by observing the Peripatetic teachers and team teaching. This is to increase their knowledge and confidence in the teaching of music.
- To try and increase the number of children receiving private tuition in playing a musical instrument. To look at offering other instruments also.
- To ensure the music co coordinator regularly attend the Primary Network meetings with local hubs and is therefore equipped with an up-to-date knowledge of the music curriculum and new initiatives.