

Music development plan summary: Thurcroft Junior Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Rebecca Baldwin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ruth Stone
Name of local music hub	Rotherham Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

The music curriculum at Thurcroft Junior Academy aims to provide all students with a high-quality music education that fosters a lifelong love for music. The curriculum is based on the belief that every child has the potential to be a musician and aims to unlock that potential by developing their listening skills, aural memory, and musical creativity.

One of the strengths of the curriculum is its emphasis on making connections with other subjects through music. By integrating music into class topics, students can see the relevance and applicability of music in various areas of their learning. This cross-curricular approach enhances students' understanding and appreciation of music.

The curriculum progression is clearly outlined, ensuring that students build on their knowledge and skills as they progress through the years. The school follows the new ACET Primary Music curriculum, which provides a framework for clear progression and development of music skills and knowledge.

In the early years, music is integrated into the expressive arts and design strand of the EYFS curriculum. Students engage in activities such as singing, creating songs, music-making, dancing, and performing for their peers. This foundation helps to develop their musical abilities and prepares them for further musical experiences in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Key Stage 2 builds on the skills and knowledge acquired in previous stages, allowing students to consolidate and expand their understanding of music. They are

encouraged to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, improvise and compose music, listen attentively to music, and appreciate a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music. The curriculum also includes the study of musical notation and the history of music, providing a comprehensive music education.

The assessment approach of the curriculum allows for checks and learning stops and the immediate identification and addressing of misconceptions, ensuring that students are on the right track in their learning. The combination of practical and written assessments caters to different learning styles, accommodating the diverse needs of students.

The curriculum makes efforts to provide students with cultural capital through various musical experiences. Opportunities such as dancing workshops, performances at local churches, music clubs, and visiting workshop facilitators contribute to broadening students' understanding and appreciation of different genres and traditions of music.

The enrichment opportunities offered by the school, such as choir and musical theatre clubs, are a significant strength of the music curriculum. These opportunities allow students to further explore their musical talents and showcase their skills through performances. Participation in events like the Young Voices concert and the local arena performances enhances students' self-confidence and motivates their passion for music and performing.

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.

Thurcroft Junior Academy provides a variety of co-curricular opportunities for students to sing and play music outside of lesson time, including choir and musical theatre. These opportunities allow students to further develop their musical skills and make progress beyond the core music curriculum.

KS2 assemblies focusing on different key skills within music. These assemblies provide students with a varied approach to music, supporting their transition from the separate infant school to Year 3. By covering topics such as vocabulary, notation, rhythm, singing, performing, and instruments, the assemblies equip students with the basic knowledge required for focused music lessons in the classroom. This is an effective way to ensure that all students can engage in music regardless of any missed opportunities.

Thurcroft Junior Academy's focus on cultural capital is evident in the range of activities and experiences provided. Regular engagement with nursery rhymes, dancing workshops, workshops on opera and performance by the Royal Opera House, and

performances at our local church during festivals contribute to students' cultural understanding and appreciation. The provision of music, drama, and dance clubs, as well as ACET music lessons on the Djembe and Ukelele in Years 3 and 5, offers diverse opportunities for students to engage in musical activities and explore their talents. The participation of the choir in local performances, including those at the local infant school and the local arena, provides students with the chance to showcase their skills and gain performance experience.

The Musician of the Month focus with assemblies is a great way to introduce students to artists from different eras and cultures, broadening their understanding of music and exposing them to a variety of musical styles. Encouraging students to complete additional work on the featured musician at home further promotes independent exploration and research.

Part C: Musical experiences

The delivery of musical experiences at Thurcroft Junior Academy extends beyond just their co-curricular provision, encompassing various events and opportunities that enrich students' musical journeys. The school organises a diverse range of activities, including singing in assembly, concerts and shows.

Visits and visitors play a vital role in enhancing students' musical exposure and understanding. Thurcroft Junior Academy collaborates with Rotherham Music Hub to provide Ukulele lessons for Year 5 students, with one term dedicated to each class during the Spring and Summer terms. This opportunity allows students to explore and develop their skills on this unique instrument. Additionally, Y3 students engage in Djembe Drumming lessons, spanning from Spring through to the Summer term, with a total of 11 lessons per class. These lessons not only introduce students to the vibrant world of percussion but also promote cultural appreciation and rhythmical understanding.

Young Voices is another noteworthy musical event organised by the school. Here our students have the chance to take part in this large-scale choir event. Young Voices offers students the valuable experience of performing with a large group and exposes them to a wide variety of music genres.

Moreover, Thurcroft Junior Academy has regular workshops facilitated by the Royal Opera House, further diversifying students' musical experiences and fostering appreciation for classical music and performance arts.

Thurcroft Junior Academy has also established a link with Thurcroft Infant School, creating opportunities for collaboration and shared musical showcases. The academy's choir perform a selection of songs from Young Voices, showcasing their talents and enthusiasm. Furthermore, Y2 students from the infant school will visit to experience

performances of the summer Musical, which fosters a sense of musical progression and inspires younger students to pursue musical interests.

To widen the horizons of students, the school has organized visits to professional performances. Y2 students visited the dress rehearsal for Wizard of Oz in July 2025, offering them a glimpse into the world of live theatre and the performing arts. Plans are also underway for the choir to perform at the local infant school in 2026, allowing the older students to share their passion for music with a wider audience. Additionally, the infants will attend the dress rehearsal for the academy's musical in the summer, fostering a sense of anticipation and inspiration as they witness the dedication and talent showcased by their older peers.

Thurcroft Junior Academy also ensures that students actively participate in the community's musical traditions by organising annual trips to sing at the local church during Harvest, Christmas, and Easter celebrations. This enables students to connect with the wider community and imbues them with a sense of pride and accomplishment as they contribute musically to festive occasions.

In the future

Thurcroft Junior Academy has a strong track record in delivering high-quality music provision, but there are areas in which the school aims to progress and make improvements in subsequent years.

The academy plans to establish a recorder club to cater to students from disadvantaged households who may not have the means to afford or access individual music lessons. This initiative aims to provide equal opportunities for music education and ensure that all students can benefit from learning a musical instrument. It aligns with the feature of high-quality music provision that promotes inclusivity and accessibility.

Furthermore, Thurcroft Junior Academy aims to develop stronger links within the local community. Building partnerships with community organisations, local musicians, and venues could provide students with additional performance opportunities and exposure to the wider music scene. Through these connections, students can develop a broader understanding of music beyond the classroom and make meaningful connections between their musical education and real-world experiences.

In terms of curriculum delivery, the school is already implementing various strategies to enhance music education. Reading plays a significant role in expanding students' musical knowledge and understanding. To further develop their literacy skills, students are exposed to sheet music and lyrics as additional forms of reading. The school also encourages research into various genres of music and composers, engaging students in broader musical exploration beyond their practical lessons. These practices align

with the features of high-quality music provision, such as promoting music literacy and providing opportunities for wider musical engagement.

Thurcroft Junior Academy additionally utilises webinars, YouTube, staff meetings, and subject lead meetings to support professional development and facilitate collaborative planning. These platforms allow for the sharing of best practices, expanding pedagogical knowledge, and ensuring that teachers are equipped with the resources and strategies needed to deliver effective music education.

Further information (optional)

Rotherham Music Hub - <https://www.rotherhammusic.co.uk>