

Music development plan summary: Thurlstone Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	24 - 25
Date this summary was published	Nov 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Nov 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Charlotte Gibbins
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Charlotte Gibbins
Name of local music hub	Barnsley Music Hub

Thurlstone Primary School's Music Development Plan outlines the school's commitment to providing high-quality, inclusive, and inspiring music education for all pupils. The report details the progress made over the past year, identifies current strengths, and sets out clear priorities for further improvement.

Over the past year, the school has strengthened its music provision through regular whole-school singing assemblies, increased participation in instrumental tuition, and the successful introduction singing workshops. Pupils have shown improved musical confidence, creativity, and teamwork, reflected in enthusiastic performances and positive feedback from the school community.

Part A: Curriculum music

The school uses the **Sparkyard** scheme to deliver a well-structured and creative programme, ensuring clear progression and alignment with the National Curriculum. Weekly lessons are enriched through whole-school singing assemblies, class performances, and links with other areas of learning, helping pupils develop musical confidence, enjoyment, and teamwork.

Children in Y4 benefit from weekly whole class music lessons delivered by a specialist brass teacher as part of Barnsley Wider Opportunities via the music hub. The children take part in a Music Festival at the end of the school year where they perform with a number of other schools to a wider audience of families and community members.

The school works closely with Barnsley Music hub to provide whole class and individual music tuition. The school also works closely with Barnsley Youth Choir and is 'a singing school' that provide children with a wide range of opportunities to sing to audiences small and large scale.

Intent:

The school aims to ensure that all pupils develop musical understanding, creativity, and confidence through active participation in singing, performing, composing, and listening. The curriculum is designed to be inclusive and to nurture a lifelong appreciation of music, reflecting the school's ethos of opportunity and enjoyment for all.

Implementation:

Music is delivered by class teachers using Sparkyard's comprehensive resources, with weekly lessons supported by regular whole-school singing assemblies and performance opportunities. Staff receive ongoing professional development to strengthen subject knowledge and confidence in music teaching. Cross-curricular links are made where appropriate to deepen learning and engagement.

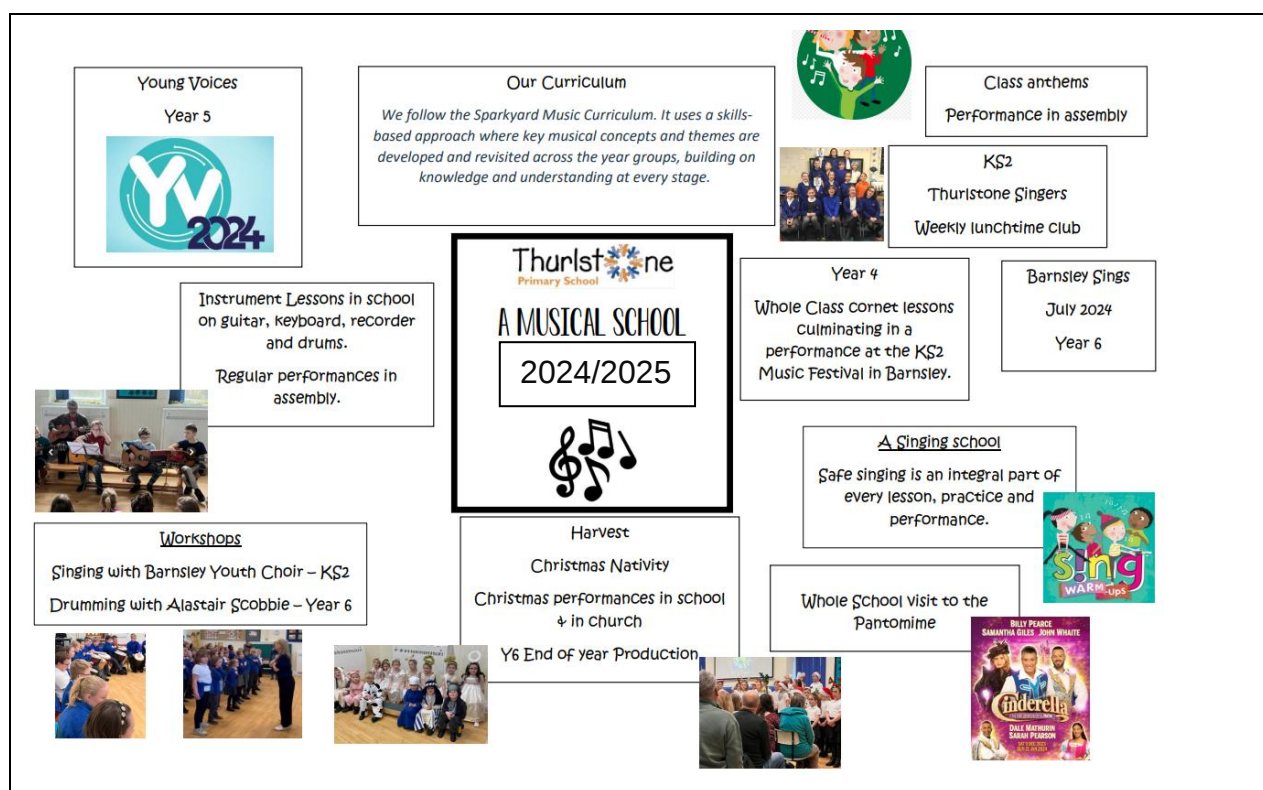
Impact:

Pupil engagement in music is high, with evidence of growing confidence, improved performance skills, and increasing musical vocabulary across year groups. Pupils demonstrate enthusiasm for singing and performance, and the quality of musical outcomes continues to improve. Staff report increased confidence in delivering the music curriculum, supported by the structured planning and progression Sparkyard provides.

Next Steps:

- Further develop staff expertise through targeted CPD opportunities and continued use of Sparkyard support materials.
- Increase opportunities for pupils to perform within school and in the wider community.
- Strengthen formative assessment to track musical progress more precisely and inform future planning.
- Continue to promote music as a key part of the school's cultural and creative development offer.

Through these priorities, Thurlstone Primary School aims to maintain and enhance the quality of its music provision, ensuring that all pupils achieve well, enjoy learning in and through music, and are well prepared for the next stage of their musical journey.



Part B: Co-curricular music

In addition to the music curriculum as detailed above, children have the opportunity to access one to one, small group and large group tuition for instrument and voice.

Y5 pupils attend Young Voices every year – forming part of a 6000 voice choir which performs at Sheffield Arena.

Children of all ages partake in workshops provided by Barnsley Youth Choir and then perform to parents and the wider community at Barnsley College.

Children can join school based choirs which take place at lunch times and form unique elements to concerts and performances throughout the year.

Children can learn to play the following instruments: recorder, guitar, keyboard and drums. They have opportunities to perform to parents and in concerts at school. Children meet and rehearse in classrooms before and after school. After school clubs which involve music require payment from parents, but are free to pupil premium children.

Pupil Premium pupils benefit from free music tuition during school time if they wish.

Part C: Musical experiences

Musical events and opportunities at Thurlstone include:

- Young Voices for Y5 children
- Wider Opportunities (brass) for Y4
- Barnsley Sings for Y6
- Choir for KS2
- Choir for KS1
- End of year production – Y6
- Christmas Concerts – all year groups
- Singing and music is embedded in wider curriculum learning, especially in EYFS and KS1
- Whole school visit to Bradford Pantomine (every other year)

In the future

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit local theatrical/musical productions• Invite Barnsley Youth Choir back for more workshops – performance for parents• Develop the school choir further |
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