

Music development plan summary: Thriftwood 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	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Catherine Sayer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Simon Kyndt
Name of local music hub	Greater Essex Music Hub: Essex Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Charanga Music

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.

At Thriftwood School, music is taught both as a distinct subject within class topic frameworks and also used as a tool for teaching group skills, self-expression, raising self-esteem, self-confidence, and developing communication skills. We seek to provide opportunities for extended learning and individualised provision, e.g. school and class performances, group work, music communication groups and development of higher-level skills e.g. singing group, individual performances.

All students may experience music at Thriftwood through playing, singing, relaxation, school shows, soundtracks, instruments, composing, cue songs, hello and goodbye, musical games, workshops, rhymes and chants, assemblies, listening, visiting performers, performing and/or music therapy.

Students in Upper school have weekly music and drama sessions. The key focuses for these sessions are to:

- Build identity as upper school pupils,
- Take responsibility for creating drama productions
- Write songs and musical compositions
- Develop skills in working as a team
- Build self confidence in performing to others
- Build self-esteem by creating things they are proud of

- Use music and drama as forms of self-expression.

Pupils in Upper school work together to create musical compositions, soundscapes, songs and improvised plays. They have opportunities to explore different themes through playing characters in a range of situations. They also play and develop skills on wide range of different percussion instruments together with guitars and drums.

Group Aims to be communicated to students:

- **Work together, listening to each other**
- **Encourage each other**
- **Try new things**
- **Work as team to create plays, songs and music.**

Every year the Year 9 students have the opportunity to perform to a large audience, including parents and carers. This is the Winter Production, whereby the Year 9 students create a playscript, choose characters, props, create lines, choose music such as selecting songs, instruments and singers. This is a Year 9 project, however all classes within school are involved by performing for 2 minutes on the stage, which may include some drama, singing, dancing and playing musical instruments.

We are beginning to follow the Charanga Model Music Curriculum/Charanga Original Scheme, which has been written to follow the scope and breadth of the model music curriculum.

In year 10 and year 11, students have one hour per week of music lessons where they delve into rhythm, melody, and various music genres. They share their opinions on different genres, recognising and respecting the diversity of musical preferences. Students compose their own music pieces and are encouraged to present them to the group, promoting self-confidence. These activities foster teamwork, patience, and independent thinking, alongside developing ICT skills for music genre research.

Year 12 and year 13 students who have chosen Performing Arts as their Options subject on a Wednesday follow a curriculum designed to introduce the Performing Arts and Events industries. This includes exploring theatre, film, and local performance venues, as well as venues that host events such as quizzes and weddings. There are career opportunities within these industries suitable for our students and their skill sets, along with a strong set of highly transferable skills to be learned and developed. Students choosing performing arts as an option are encouraged to create a performance piece, take part in Open Mic Night, and help organise college events, such as the Summer Prom. Our offsite visits provide greater insight into these industries, aiming to give a rounded view of career opportunities available in the sector. This option develops excellent teamwork, the expression of individuality, tolerance, patience, strong communication skills, and confidence to speak or perform in front of others.

We partner with Greater Essex Music Hub and Essex Music Service to support musical opportunities for our pupils.

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.

Currently at Thriftwood School, there is a Singing and Dancing club for Years 7 and 8 students one lunch time a week. Here the students are able to sing songs that they like and dancing freely or following instructions to copy dancing patterns. Singing and Dancing club aims to boost confidence and moral by encouraging singing songs of interest and have fun dancing, feeling the pulse, within a small group.

During the Autumn Term, Year 9 students have the opportunity to hone in on their instrumental skills during lunch times to practise for the Winter Production. Likewise for the Year 9 Leaver's Assembly presentation. This is led by a music specialist teacher on a 1:1 or small group basis throughout these terms.

All clubs, small group practise or 1:1 practise takes place in our school's music room. The music room is a large space which contains a wide variety of musical instruments.

At College, all students are invited to join the college choir on Thursday mornings. This is very well attended. The choir perform at a number of events throughout the year including parent assemblies, leavers' presentation day, Open Mic Night, and various charity events.

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.

During assemblies, the students have the opportunity to sing along to songs they know. They may sing along with the piano played or with a recording. Music is played in all assemblies, when the students walk in, during the assembly focus as well as singing along.

Year 9 students have the opportunity to perform towards the end of the Autumn Term as well as towards the end of the Summer Term. This includes both music and drama opportunities and parents are invited to these performances. All students perform musically in our Winter Production towards the end of the Autumn Term.

Some students in Middle school are invited to visit Thriftwood College to watch their Open Mic Night rehearsals once a year. This includes watching older pupils perform a variety of performances including singing – solo or as part of group, playing instruments – solo or as part of an ensemble, drama, comedy, dance, etc.

Outside agencies are booked to come in to compliment the curriculum, for example Earth Song Music Workshops were booked to lead music workshops based on the topic of India. Therefore the pupils are given the opportunity to learn more about world instruments, explore them and make music together. Our topic budgets are used to pay for these opportunities.

At the college site, Open Mic Night, an important evening on our calendar, brings together KS4 and KS5 students to perform for the families and friends of Thriftwood. This hour-and-a-half show involves almost half of the college students, who showcase a range of musical performances. It is a great experience that challenges them in many ways, from overcoming stage fright to perfecting their musical skills. Participation in Open Mic Night enhances students' confidence, public speaking abilities, and performance techniques. It also fosters a sense of community and accomplishment, as students support one another and celebrate their collective achievements. Through this event, students gain invaluable experience in performing live, which contributes to their personal growth and readiness for future endeavours in both music and other areas of life.

In the future

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

- Liaison and development of a bespoke curriculum in partnership with Charanga. (Autumn Term 2024)
- CPD given by Charanga trainer to all teachers at Thriftwood School, to boost confidence and consistency in teaching the music curriculum. (Autumn/Spring Term)
- Regular timetabled music lessons, up to one hour per week, across the whole school. (Autumn Term 2024)
- To access Financial assistance from Essex Music Service for music lessons, instrument hire and county-led ensembles. (Autumn Term 2024)
- To continue the Autumn and Summer performances within Year 9. (continuation)
- To incorporate class performances within classrooms and assemblies each term. (Autumn Term 2024)
- To ensure the opportunity for our learners to experience a live musical performance this year (Summer 2025)