Music development plan summary:
Thistle Hill 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	Rebecca Handebeaux
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sharlotte Hill
Name of local music hub	Kent Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

- Thistle Hill Academy prioritises music education by ensuring that lessons are taught using Music Express for a minimum of 1 hour every week. The use of Musician of the Month enhances children's knowledge of music and promotes diversity within the curriculum. In Year 3, students have the opportunity to learn Ukuleles, adding a practical and engaging element to their musical education. The school's Music Express program is thoughtfully designed, drawing inspiration from the model music curriculum (March 2021), which provides non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3. The Music Express SEND scheme offers a series of six topic-based units of work for use in special school classroom environments or for small group and individual intervention work both in special and mainstream schools. These units are integrated into the Lesson Bank, within Years 1-4, offering a tailored approach to music education for students.

- Children are also able to access teacher approved play lists to support concentration and learning strategies within the classroom

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.

Thistle Hill Academy offers a variety of co-curricular music activities to enrich students' musical experiences. Music after school clubs cater to all age groups, fostering a love for music beyond the classroom. Opportunities to be part of ensembles and choirs (including Sheppey sings), as well as Rock Steady music lessons, provide avenues for students to further develop their musical talents through individual and group instruction.

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.

Thistle Hill Academy values musical experiences as integral parts of students' education. Annual events like Young Voices, Year 6 end-of-year productions and Nativities in EYFS and KS1 are enhanced through music. Students engage in learning songs, playing instruments, and singing as part of choirs and ensembles, fostering a sense of teamwork and musical expression within the school community. The children perform songs and music to each other and parents through a range of opportunities, such as Rock Steady termly concerts and Ukulele year group performances.

In the future

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

- Organise community music events or collaborations to showcase students' musical talents and strengthen ties with the local community.
- Integrate technology into musical experiences, such as recording performances or creating digital portfolios of student work.
- Offer training or workshops for teachers to effectively integrate the APP Garage Band into music lessons and projects.
- Implement regular assessments and feedback mechanisms to track individual progress and tailor teaching strategies accordingly.
- Introduce opportunities for cross-curricular integration, linking music with other subjects to enhance learning experiences.