Music Curriculum

Progression of Skills: EYFS to Year 6

This document shows how pupils' musical skills and knowledge build cumulatively from EYFS through to Year 6, organised around the six threads that run through our music curriculum.

Developing our singing voice

Year group	Progression of skills
EYFS	Explore and use their singing voice through songs and voice-play; begin to find a steady pulse.
Year 1	Find and use their own singing voice; sing simple songs from memory with increasing accuracy.
Year 2	Sing together as a group, matching pitch and starting to sing in time with others.
Year 3	Hold a second part confidently in rounds and partner songs.
Year 4	Discover different ways to sing in harmony with others.
Year 5	Sing with attention to syncopation, keeping their part secure within a group.
Year 6	Convey emotion and character through vocal performance, adapting expression for effect.

Creating, composing and improvising

Year group	Progression of skills
EYFS	Improvise and create their own simple songs or rhythms, exploring sounds and instruments freely.
Year 1	Explore and perform simple rhythm patterns; create high and low melodic responses.
Year 2	Improvise using four notes; record musical ideas using a graphic score.
Year 3	Notate and perform using rhythm grids; compose major pentatonic melodies.
Year 4	Compose a major melody on a stave; improvise within Hindustani classical music.
Year 5	Compose a minor melody on a stave; create and combine minimalist musical cells.
Year 6	Improvise using the minor pentatonic scale; create melodic variations based on a theme.

Notating and sharing music

Year group	Progression of skills
EYFS	Begin to represent sounds through simple pictures, symbols or actions.
Year 1	Begin to associate sounds with simple symbols and pictures.
Year 2	Use symbols to represent pitch and record ideas using a graphic score.
Year 3	Use rhythm grids to notate and perform simple rhythmic patterns.
Year 4	Read and use a stave to compose and perform a major melody.
Year 5	Read and use a stave to compose and perform a minor melody.
Year 6	Use notation confidently to support composing, rehearsing and performing.

Performing as an ensemble

Year group	Progression of skills
EYFS	Play instruments alongside others, exploring how sounds can be combined.
Year 1	Move to the pulse and respond to changes in tempo as part of a group.
Year 2	Begin to play and perform together with basic pitch awareness.
Year 3	Build texture within a piece using melody, drone and ostinato.
Year 4	Rehearse effectively as part of an ensemble, listening and adjusting to others.
Year 5	Explore different vocal and instrumental timbres within an ensemble.
Year 6	Arrange and rehearse a fusion performance, combining ideas and instruments.

Practising and preparing for a performance

Year group	Progression of skills
EYFS	Perform simple songs and actions to an audience of peers, growing in confidence.
Year 1	Change tempo and dynamics purposefully within a performance.
Year 2	Add a simple vocal accompaniment when performing with others.
Year 3	Prepare and perform a second vocal part confidently in rounds and partner songs.
Year 4	Prepare a harmonised performance, listening carefully to balance parts.
Year 5	Rehearse and perform music that includes syncopated rhythms.
Year 6	Prepare a polished performance that conveys emotion and character to an audience.

Music over time and in different places

Year group	Progression of skills
EYFS	Listen and respond to music and songs from their own and other cultures and traditions.
Year 1	Listen to and enjoy a range of songs and styles as part of singing and performing.
Year 2	Begin to explore how singing is used to bring people together.
Year 3	Explore how songs are used within communities and traditions.
Year 4	Explore how stories are shared through song, including Hindustani classical music.
Year 5	Explore how songs can unite people and communities.
Year 6	Explore how music and songs have been used to comment on social change.