



Curriculum Aims

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Skills Progression

EYFS

Expressive Arts and Design

- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.
- Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.
- Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.
- Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.
- Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs.
- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and - when appropriate - try to move in time with music.



Listening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe sounds and music using simple language (e.g. loud/quiet/ fast/slow/scary). 2. Identify sounds in the environment and match instruments to sounds. 3. Describe and compare sounds created by instruments and voices. 4. Listen and respond to simple musical instructions (e.g. performing correct action, stopping when the music stops, responding to changes in dynamics or tempo). 5. Listen to music and respond with simple ideas 'the music makes me think of...' 6. Listen and remember a sequence of sounds (e.g. high, low, high)
Singing and Voice Play	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join in with familiar songs as part of the class or small group. 2. Build a bank of familiar songs and rhymes (e.g. counting songs, nursery rhymes, routine songs) and talk about them with others. 3. Use singing voice in play activities (e.g. in role play, playing in sand). 4. Experiment with voice sounds (long, short, high, low sliding, humming) and understand the difference between a 'speaking' and a 'singing' voice. 5. Copy simple phrases showing an awareness of pitch and rhythm. 6. Respond to the structure or mood of a song or rhyme (e.g. anticipating a chorus, adding appropriate actions or changing voice). 7. Show an awareness of others when singing and performing (e.g. taking turns in musical games, working with a partner, showing awareness of audience).
Playing and Exploring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experiment with different ways to create sound in both play and teacher-led activities (e.g. using instruments, sound-makers, body percussion). 2. Handle instruments and sound-makers with increasing control (e.g. tapping claves together), using simple dynamics (loud, quiet) and tempo (e.g. fast, slow). 3. Name instruments and sort them by their material (e.g. wood, metal) or how they are played (e.g. shake, tap). 4. Improvise instrumental and vocal sounds in response to a stimulus (e.g. loud sounds for lion, squelchy sounds for 'mud'). 5. Use instruments to accompany a simple song (e.g. tapping the pulse or adding simple tuned accompaniment). 6. Play simple rhythms and melodies from songs (e.g. tapping syllables). 7. Explore the effect of combining sounds. 8. Respond to simple musical cues (e.g. knowing when to start and stop, simple dynamics). 9. Experiment with simple musical patterns (e.g. tap, shake, tap, shake; high, low, high)
Movement and Imagination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move to the pulse of the music when singing. 2. Tap pulse and/or simple rhythms 3. Explore a range of expressive movements to match sounds (e.g. actions, body percussion, dance). 4. Respond to agreed musical cues (e.g. adding appropriate action, stretching tall as the music gets higher). 5. Listen and copy simple sound and movement sequences. 6. Invent movements in response to musical cues (e.g. circling dance ribbon slowly to match slow music; mark-making to music). 7. Respond freely to songs and music, exploring ideas and following own paths of interest.



Composing and
Notating

1. Choose sounds for a purpose, trying out and adjusting musical ideas.
2. Choose descriptive sounds to match characters or objects (e.g. bells for twinkly stars).
3. Play with the structure of a simple song to create new versions (e.g. replacing words, adding actions).
4. Create simple musical patterns (e.g. play/stop/play/stop; saucepan/sieve/saucepan; loud/ quiet/loud/quiet).
5. Follow simple notation (e.g. picture cards).
6. Use a variety of notations to represent musical ideas (e.g. pictorial, natural objects, storyboards).
7. Create music from non-musical starting points (e.g. artwork, movement, nature).
8. Reflect on music-making (e.g. what worked well/what could we change?).

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Singing and Playing	<p>Sing simple songs, chants and rhymes as a class</p> <p>Copy simple pitch patterns accurately (e.g. singing call and response songs)</p> <p>Respond to visual performance directions (e.g. start, stop, loud, quiet)</p> <p>Walk, move or clap a steady beat with others, changing the speed of the beat as the tempo of the music changes.</p> <p>Perform short copycat rhythms patterns accurately e.g. word pattern chants</p> <p>Play simple rhythmic accompaniments to songs to a steady pulse (e.g. short, repeated rhythms)</p> <p>Play pitch patterns on tuned instruments.</p> <p>Explore instrumental and vocal timbre, recognising how sounds can be changed</p> <p>Perform to an audience</p>	<p>Sing songs, chants and rhymes regularly with a steady pulse and rhythm and increasing vocal control</p> <p>Sing songs and play singing games, copying pitch patterns accurately</p> <p>Sing short phrases independently as part of a singing game or short song</p> <p>Respond to visual performance directions and musical instructions and symbols (e.g. dynamics f, p,)</p> <p>Perform rhythmic patterns accurately and invent rhythms for others to copy on untuned percussion or body percussion</p> <p>Play simple repeated rhythms or melody (ostinato)</p> <p>Explore word rhythms when singing songs, transferring rhythms to instruments or body percussion</p>	<p>Sing a widening range of unison songs of varying styles and structures, confidently and with expression</p> <p>Perform actions and movements confidently and in time as a group.</p> <p>Sing call and response songs with accurate tuning</p> <p>Play call and response rhythms and melodies</p> <p>Perform rhythms using instruments or body percussion in time with the music, responding to changes in tempo.</p> <p>Accompany songs with simple rhythmic or melodic ostinato using known rhythms and note values</p> <p>Control dynamics when singing and playing and respond to performance directions and symbols (e.g. f,p,)</p> <p>Explore and select instrumental timbres to suit the mood or style of a piece of music</p> <p>Play melodies on tuned instruments, following</p>	<p>Continue to sing a wide range of unison and simple part songs in different styles and structures, pitching the voice accurately.</p> <p>Internalize pitch and copy melodic phrases accurately</p> <p>Follow and lead performance directions including those for getting louder (crescendo) and quieter (diminuendo)</p> <p>Sing songs in major and minor keys recognizing the difference in tonality</p> <p>Perform rhythms accurately, recognizing and defining note values and rests</p> <p>Perform rhythms using instruments or body percussion to music in different time signatures, responding to changes in tempo.</p> <p>Maintain an ostinato (rhythmic or melodic), performing accurately and in time as an ensemble</p> <p>Play and perform simple melodies as a whole class or in small groups following appropriate notations</p>	<p>Sing a wide range of unison and part songs using clear diction, accurate tuning, expression and awareness of style</p> <p>Sing and play with a sense of ensemble, following performance directions and understanding how different parts fit together</p> <p>Use dynamics, tempo, articulation when singing and playing, responding to musical symbols and vocabulary accurately (e.g. pp, p mp, mf, f, ff, accelerando, rallentando, staccato, legato)</p> <p>Play rhythmic patterns accurately and expressively using instruments or body percussion</p> <p>Maintain a rhythmic or melodic part as part of a multi-layered piece, performing accurately.</p> <p>Develop knowledge of scales and intervals through singing and playing</p> <p>Understand how triads are formed and play them on tuned percussion or keyboards</p>	<p>Sing a wide range of unison and part songs including those that involve syncopated rhythms, observing phrasing, accurate pitching, diction and appropriate style.</p> <p>Sing and play with a sense of ensemble, following performance directions, understanding how different parts fit together</p> <p>Explore techniques to enhance the communication and lyrical meaning of a song or poem and apply to whole class, small group and solo performances</p> <p>Play rhythmic patterns accurately and expressively using instruments or body percussion in a range of time signatures and recognise if they are going out of time (e.g. speeding up or slowing down)</p> <p>Maintain a rhythmic or melodic part as part of a multi-layered piece, performing accurately and expressively.</p> <p>Identify, recall and describe melodic patterns in songs and music and perform using voice or tuned instruments</p> <p>Play chord progressions, drones or bass lines and use them to accompany a song</p>





Listening	<p>Explore ways to perform a song (e.g. adding simple actions or changing vocal timbre)</p>	<p>Control simple dynamics and tempo when singing and playing</p> <p>Play simple melodies and accompany songs using tuned percussion</p> <p>Explore ways to communicate the mood of a song (e.g. adding facial expression, changing dynamics)</p> <p>Perform to an audience.</p>	<p>notation where appropriate (e.g. dot, rhythmic and letter notation)</p> <p>Prepare for a performance and consider elements that might shape a performance (e.g. assigning roles, characterisation, movement)</p> <p>Show growing awareness of different musical roles (conductor, performer, audience, ensemble)</p>	<p>Control changes in dynamics, tempo and articulation when singing and playing</p> <p>Suggest simple ways to enhance singing or playing to communicate a particular mood or atmosphere (e.g. changing dynamics)</p> <p>Prepare for a performance and consider elements that might shape a performance (e.g. assigning roles, characterisation, movement)</p> <p>Show understanding of different musical roles (e.g. conductor, performer, audience ensemble)</p>	<p>Play simple chords, drones, or bass lines and use them to accompany a familiar song</p> <p>Explore and suggest ways to enhance the communication and performance of songs and music (e.g. varying dynamics)</p> <p>To evaluate performances, suggesting ways to improve and making necessary adjustments</p>	<p>Use knowledge of scales to explore intervals, sequences and chromatic scales</p> <p>Use range of dynamics, tempo, articulation when singing and playing, responding to musical symbols and vocabulary accurately (e.g. pp, p mp, mf, f; ff; accelerando, rallentando, staccato, legato)</p> <p>Develop understanding of different musical roles (e.g. conductor, musicians, performer, audience)</p>
	<p>Listen with understanding to music from a range of different periods, styles and share ideas and opinions about the music.</p> <p>Respond to music through movement and dance, identifying a steady beat with others and changing the speed of the beat as the tempo of music changes.</p> <p>Listen and describe musical patterns using appropriate vocabulary (high, low, loud, soft, fast, slow, spiky, smooth, long, short)</p>	<p>Listen with understanding to music from a range of different periods, styles and share ideas and opinions about the music.</p> <p>Listen to and describe simple changes in dynamics, tempo, pitch and articulation using appropriate musical vocabulary (faster, slow, spiky, smooth, loud, soft, getting louder/quieter) and say how it effects the music</p> <p>Listen to and interpret features in recorded or</p>	<p>Listen to music developing and understanding of its background, history and context.</p> <p>Listen out for specific features of music (e.g. tempo, dynamics, texture, articulation) and explain responses using a growing range of musical vocabulary</p> <p>Listen, and describe how the interrelated dimensions are used to create moods and effects</p> <p>Use listening skills to correctly order a sequence of notes</p>	<p>Listen to music with an understanding or stories, origins and traditions, history and social context of the music they listen to, sing and play.</p> <p>Recognise and describe timbres of instruments and recall orchestral families (string, woodwind, brass and percussion).</p> <p>Listen and identify musical contrasts (e.g. dynamics, tempo, articulation, tonality and discuss the effect on the listener)</p>	<p>Listen to music with an understanding or stories, origins and traditions, history and social context of the music they listen to, sing and play.</p> <p>Listen, compare and evaluate music from a diverse range of genres, styles and musical periods</p> <p>Develop understanding of a particular musical style or genre, identifying key influences and shared characteristics</p> <p>Use a range of musical vocabulary to describe</p>	<p>Listen to music with an understanding or stories, origins and traditions, history and social context of the music they listen to, sing and play.</p> <p>Listen, compare and evaluate music from a diverse range of genres, styles and musical periods</p> <p>Develop understanding of a particular musical style or genre, identifying key influences, shared characteristics and musical techniques used</p> <p>Use a range of musical vocabulary to describe music commenting on features such as instruments, time signature, dynamics, tempo, timbre, pitch, articulation</p>



	<p>Listen to sounds in the local school environment, comparing high and low sounds.</p>	<p>live music using dance, art or drama</p> <p>Move to the pulse of familiar music, coordinating movements and recognising changes in tempo</p> <p>Respond independently to pitch changes heard in melodic phrases, indicating with actions</p>	<p>Listen, and identify direction of pitch in a simple melody, copying with voices or instruments</p> <p>Listen, and interpret features in recorded or live music using dance, art or drama</p>	<p>Listen and identify structures used to shape songs and music (e.g. call and response, rondo form)</p> <p>Listen and describe direction and shape of melodies</p> <p>Recognize major and minor chords</p> <p>Listen and compare music, discussing similarities and differences and expressing preferences.</p>	<p>musical features such as instruments, time signature, dynamics, tempo, timbre, articulation</p> <p>Interpret features of music through visual art or movement</p> <p>Listen and identify structures used to shape songs and music (e.g. call and response, rondo form)</p> <p>Understand how pitches can be combined to create harmony and describe the effect</p>	<p>Analyse songs, exploring lyrics and identifying structural features (e.g. verse, chorus, bridge)</p> <p>Understand how harmony can be used to create moods and atmosphere (major/minor/consonant/dissonant) and listen out for these features in the music they play and listen to.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Composition and Improvisation</p>	<p>Create simple vocal chants or rhythm phrases, e.g. using question and answer phrases</p> <p>Create musical sound effects and short sequences of sounds in response to stimuli (e.g. song lyrics)</p> <p>Combine sounds to tell a story, choosing and playing classroom instruments or sound makers</p> <p>Create simple rhythm patterns</p>	<p>Create music in response to a non-musical stimulus.</p> <p>Compose or improvise simple descriptive sounds to match a mood, character or theme</p> <p>Recognise and explore how to change and combine sounds to create simple effects</p> <p>Explore musical structures, choosing and ordering sounds</p> <p>Recognise and explore how to change and combine sounds to create simple effects</p>	<p>Compose or improvise simple call and response phrases 2.</p> <p>Compose rhythmic accompaniments using untuned percussion</p> <p>Experiment with musical texture (e.g. combining layers of rhythm)</p> <p>Structure a composition with a clear beginning/middle/end and combine layers of musical sound.</p> <p>Compose and improvise in response to a range of stimuli (e.g. poems, stories, songs or art work)</p> <p>Compose and improvise simple pentatonic melodies</p>	<p>Improvise rhythms or melodies</p> <p>Compose and represent melodies using appropriate notations (e.g. graphic scores, combination of rhythm notation and letter names)</p> <p>Arrange individual notation cards of known note values to create a sequence of 2,3 or 4 beat phrases</p> <p>Compose layers of rhythm (ostinato phrases)</p> <p>Make decisions about the overall structure of compositions and improvisations</p>	<p>Improvise rhythmic or melodic patterns to a steady pulse or drone, developing a sense of shape and character</p> <p>Compose and improvise in response to a range of stimuli (e.g. song lyrics, poetry) and use the interrelated dimensions to capture the intended mood and atmosphere</p> <p>Compose and notate short melodies using: staff and informal notation</p> <p>Compose music with contrasting sections</p> <p>Use chords to evoke a specific atmosphere or mood</p>	<p>Improvise vocal and instrumental effects as a class and in small groups</p> <p>Use voices and instruments creatively, making subtle changes to timbre, articulation, pitch and dynamics to achieve effects or create styles, moods and atmosphere</p> <p>Understand and explore how harmony can be used to create moods and atmosphere (major/minor/consonant/dissonant)</p> <p>Create extended compositions, organising rhythmic ideas into a structure (e.g. creating 16-beat rhythms)</p>



	<p>Create simple pitch patterns</p> <p>Use music technology (if available, to capture, change and combine sounds)</p> <p>Experiment with different ways to create sound (e.g. body percussion, vocal sounds)</p> <p>Explore percussion sounds to enhance songs and storytelling</p> <p>Perform to an audience</p> <p>Explore ways to perform a song (e.g. adding simple actions or changing vocal timbre)</p>	<p>Use music technology, if available to capture change and combine sounds</p> <p>Create rhythmic patterns from various stimuli, eg spoken words</p> <p>Compose simple melodies using a given range of notes</p> <p>Collaborate with others, trying out musical ideas and make improvements where necessary</p>	<p>Vary the interrelated dimensions to create different moods and effects.</p> <p>Collaborate with others, trying out musical ideas and making improvements where needed.</p>	<p>Compose music following a given musical structure (e.g. call and response, rondo, AB)</p> <p>Compose lyrics following a given rhythmic/rhyming structure</p> <p>Carefully select instrumental timbres to achieve an effect and explore ways to create musical contrasts (e.g. forte/piano/staccato/legato/presto/lento, major/minor)</p> <p>Evaluate performances, making improvements where needed.</p>	<p>Compose music using a combination of lyrics and melody</p> <p>Evaluate own and others' work, explaining ideas using musical vocabulary and making necessary adjustments</p>	<p>Use song structures as a basis for a composition (e.g. composing lyrics)</p> <p>Compose and perform music for a specific occasion, using a combination of lyrics, melody and harmony</p> <p>Evaluate own and others' work, explaining ideas using musical vocabulary and suggesting ways to improve</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Notation</p>	<p>Recognise how graphic notation can represent created sounds, exploring and inventing own symbols.</p> <p>Follow pictures and symbols to guide singing and playing</p>	<p>Invent graphic notations to represent simple features of music (e.g. dynamics and tempo)</p> <p>Use graphic notation to represent rhythmic or melodic patterns</p> <p>Use graphic symbols to keep a record of a composed piece</p> <p>Follow graphic notations to guide singing and playing</p>	<p>Play from rhythmic notation and understand the value of minims, crotchets and quavers</p> <p>Follow graphic notation to guide singing and playing</p> <p>Use graphic notation to represent rhythmic or melodic patterns</p> <p>Create graphic notation to represent two or more layers of musical sound</p>	<p>Play from rhythmic notation and understand the value of semibreves, minims, crotchets and quavers</p> <p>Play from pitch notation (e.g. graphic notation, combination of rhythm and note names)</p> <p>Follow and perform simple rhythmic scores to a steady beat, maintain individual parts accurately within the rhythmic texture, achieving a sense of ensemble</p>	<p>Use and perform a range of rhythmic notations and develop understanding of note durations (semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver)</p> <p>Develop understanding of time signatures (3/4 and 4/4)</p> <p>Read and perform pitch notation within an octave</p> <p>Represent compositions using a combination of graphic and standard notations</p> <p>Use and understand musical</p>	<p>Use and perform a range of rhythmic notations and further develop understanding of note durations (semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver)</p> <p>Develop understanding of time signatures (3/4 and 4/4, 6/8)</p> <p>Read and perform from pitch notation</p> <p>Read and perform from graphic notation</p> <p>Represent compositions using graphic and standard notations</p>



			<p>Apply word chants to rhythms, understanding how to link each syllable to a musical note</p>	<p>Use graphic notations to represent layers of rhythm.</p> <p>Explore a range of notation e.g. graphic symbols, rhythm notation to capture and record creative ideas.</p> <p>Use a graphic score to represent musical structure</p>	<p>symbols (e.g. pp, p mp, mf, f, ff,) and apply them to compositions</p>	<p>Notate melodies and chords using staff or informal notation.</p> <p>Use and understand a range of musical symbols (e.g. pp, p mp, mf, f, ff,) and apply them to compositions</p>
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