**Our Lady and St Thomas**

Music – Progression of Skills

At Our Lady and St Thomas, we are committed to delivering a rich and engaging music education that aligns with the UK Primary National Curriculum for Music. Our approach, supported by the Charanga scheme, ensures that all children are inspired to explore and develop their musical abilities through a structured progression of key skills.

Our Aims Include:

* Inspiring Musical Engagement: Encourage children to actively listen to, appreciate, and engage with a diverse range of music from different cultures and styles.

* Confidence in Performance: Nurture children’s confidence in singing, playing instruments, and performing in both solo and group settings, providing regular opportunities to share their music.
* Creativity and Composition: Foster children’s creativity by supporting them in composing and experimenting with sounds, rhythm, and melodies to express their ideas and emotions.
* Building Technical Skills: Equip children with the practical skills to use their instruments (including voices) effectively, as well as an understanding of musical notation and terminology.
* Critical Listening and Reflection: Help children develop the ability to reflect on and improve their own and others’ performances, promoting collaborative and self-driven improvement.

We use the Charanga music scheme to ensure that our curriculum is not only comprehensive but also accessible and engaging. Charanga offers interactive learning through a vast library of engaging resources, allowing children to explore music in a dynamic and enjoyable way with games, quizzes, and songs. The scheme is designed with inclusive content, catering to diverse learning needs and styles, ensuring that every pupil can actively participate and progress at their own pace. Additionally, Charanga provides a well-structured progression path that systematically helps children build their musical knowledge and skills throughout our mixed-age classes.

By integrating Charanga into our curriculum, we provide a robust and engaging musical education that supports every child’s creative, emotional, and academic development.

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| **Reception** | |
| Listen and Respond | |
| Knowledge   * To know twenty nursery rhymes off by heart. * To know the stories of some of the nursery rhymes. | Skills   * To learn that music can touch your feelings. * To enjoy moving to music by dancing, marching, being animals or Pop stars. |
| Explore and Create | |
| Knowledge   * To know that we can move with the pulse of the music. * To know that the words of songs can tell stories and paint pictures. | Skills   * Find the pulse by copying a character. * Copy basic rhythm patterns of single words, building to short phrases. * Listen to high and low pitched sounds on a glockenspiel. * Create a pattern using one pitched note and keeping pulse. |
| Singing | |
| Knowledge   * To sing or rap nursery rhymes and simple songs from memory. * Songs have sections. | Skills   * To sing along with a pre-recorded song and add actions. * To sing along with the backing track. |
| Share and Perform | |
| Knowledge  A performance is sharing music. | Skills   * Perform any of the nursery rhymes by singing and adding actions or dance. * Perform any nursery rhymes or songs adding a simple instrumental part. * Record the performance to talk about. |

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| **Year Group: 1** | |
| Listen and Appraise | |
| Knowledge   * To know 5 songs off by heart. * To know what the songs are about. * To know and recognise the sound and names of some of the instruments they use. | Skills  To learn how they can enjoy moving to music by dancing, marching, being animals or pop stars. |
| Singing | |
| Knowledge  To confidently sing or rap five songs from memory and sing them in unison. | Skills   * Learn about voices, singing notes of different pitches (high and low). * Learn that they can make different types of sounds with their voices – you can rap or say words in rhythm. * Learn to start and stop singing when following a leader. |
| Playing | |
| Knowledge   * Learn the names of the notes in their instrumental part from memory or when written down. * Learn the names of the instruments they are playing. | Skills   * Treat instruments carefully and with respect. * Play a tuned instrumental part with the song they perform. * Learn to play an instrumental part that matches their musical challenge, using one of the differentiated parts (a one-note part, a simple part, medium part). * Listen to and follow musical instructions from a leader. |
| Improvisation | |
| Knowledge   * Improvisation is about making up your own tunes on the spot. * When someone improvises, they make up their own tune that has never been heard before. It is not written down and belongs to them. * Everyone can improvise! | Skills  Use the improvisation tracks provided. Improvise using the three challenges:   1. Clap and Improvise – Listen and clap back, then listen and clap your own answer (rhythms of words). 2. Sing, Play and Improvise – Use voices and instruments, listen and sing back, then listen and play your own answer using one or two notes. 3. Improvise! – Take it in turns to improvise using one or two notes. |
| Composition | |
| Knowledge   * Composing is like writing a story with music. * Everyone can compose. | Skills   * Help to create a simple melody using one, two or three notes. * Learn how the notes of the composition can be written down and changed if necessary. |
| Performance | |
| Knowledge   * A performance is sharing music with other people, called an audience | Skills   * Choose a song they have learnt from the Scheme and perform it. * They can add their ideas to the performance. * Record the performance and say how they were feeling about it. |

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| **Year Group: 2** | |
| Listen and Appraise | |
| Knowledge   * To know five songs off by heart. * To know some songs have a chorus or a response/answer part. * To know that songs have a musical style. | Skills   * To learn how they can enjoy moving to music by dancing, marching, being animals or pop stars. * To learn how songs can tell a story or describe an idea. |
| Singing | |
| Knowledge   * To confidently know and sing five songs from memory. * To know that unison is everyone singing at the same time. * Songs include other ways of using the voice e.g. rapping (spoken word). * To know why we need to warm up our voices | Skills   * Learn about voices singing notes of different pitches (high and low). * Learn that they can make different types of sounds with their voices – you can rap (spoken word with rhythm). * Learn to find a comfortable singing position. * Learn to start and stop singing when following a leader |
| Playing | |
| Knowledge   * Learn the names of the notes in their instrumental part from memory or when written down. * Know the names of untuned percussion instruments played in class. | Skills   * Treat instruments carefully and with respect. * Learn to play a tuned instrumental part that matches their musical challenge, using one of the differentiated parts (a one-note, simple or medium part). * Play the part in time with the steady pulse. * Listen to and follow musical instructions from a leader. |
| Improvisation | |
| Knowledge   * Improvisation is making up your own tunes on the spot. * When someone improvises, they make up their own tune that has never been heard before. It is not written down and belongs to them. * Everyone can improvise, and you can use one or two notes | Skills  Use the improvisation tracks provided. Improvise using the three challenges:   1. Clap and Improvise – Listen and clap back, then listen and clap your own answer (rhythms of words). 2. Sing, Play and Improvise – Use voices and instruments, listen and sing back, then listen and play your own answer using one or two notes. 3. Improvise! – Take it in turns to improvise using one or two notes. |
| Composition | |
| Knowledge   * Composing is like writing a story with music. * Everyone can compose. | Skills   * Help create three simple melodies with the Units using one, three or five different notes. * Learn how the notes of the composition can be written down and changed if necessary. |
| Performance | |
| Knowledge   * A performance is sharing music with an audience. * A performance can be a special occasion and involve a class, a year group or a whole school.   An audience can include your parents and friends. | Skills   * Choose a song they have learnt from the Scheme and perform it. * They can add their ideas to the performance.   Record the performance and say how they were feeling about it |

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| **Year Group: 3** | |
| Listen and Appraise | |
| Knowledge   * To know five songs from memory and who sang them or wrote them. * To know the style of the five songs. * To choose one song and be able to talk about: * Its lyrics: what the song is about * Any musical dimensions featured in the song, and where they are used (texture, dynamics, tempo, rhythm and pitch) * Identify the main sections of the song (introduction, verse, chorus etc.) * Name some of the instruments they heard in the song | Skills   * To confidently identify and move to the pulse. * To think about what the words of a song mean. * To take it in turn to discuss how the song makes them feel. * Listen carefully and respectfully to other people’s thoughts about the music. |
| Singing | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * Singing in a group can be called a choir * Leader or conductor: A person who the choir or group follow * Songs can make you feel different things e.g. happy, energetic or sad * Singing as part of an ensemble or large group is fun, but that you must listen to each other * To know why you must warm up your voice | Skills   * To sing in unison and in simple two-parts. * To demonstrate a good singing posture. * To follow a leader when singing. * To enjoy exploring singing solo. * To sing with awareness of being ‘in tune’. * To have an awareness of the pulse internally when singing. |
| Playing | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * The instruments used in class (a glockenspiel, a recorder) | Skills   * To treat instruments carefully and with respect. * Play any one, or all of four, differentiated parts on a tuned instrument – a one-note, simple or medium part or the melody of the song) from memory or using notation. * To rehearse and perform their part within the context of the Unit song. * To listen to and follow musical instructions from a leader. |
| Improvisation | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about improvisation:   * Improvisation is making up your own tunes on the spot * When someone improvises, they make up their own tune that has never been heard before. It is not written down and belongs to them * To know that using one or two notes confidently is better than using five   To know that if you improvise using the notes you are given, you cannot make a mistake | Skills  Improvise using instruments in the context of the song they are learning to perform. Using the improvisation tracks provided, children will complete the Bronze, Silver or Gold Challenges:   * Bronze Challenge: * Copy Back – Listen and sing back * Play and Improvise – Using instruments, listen and play your own answer using one note. * Improvise! – Take it in turns to improvise using one note. * Silver Challenge: * Sing, Play and Copy Back – Listen and copy back using instruments, using two different notes. * Play and Improvise – Using your instruments, listen and play your own answer using one or two notes. * Improvise! – Take it in turns to improvise using one or two notes. * Gold Challenge: * Sing, Play and Copy Back – Listen and copy back using instruments, two different notes. * Play and Improvise – Using your instruments, listen and play your own answer using two different notes.   Improvise! – Take it in turns to improvise using three different Notes. |
| Composition | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * A composition: music that is created by you and kept in some way. It’s like writing a story. It can be played or performed again to your friends.   Different ways of recording compositions (letter names, symbols, audio etc.) | Skills   * Help create at least one simple melody using one, three or five different notes. * Plan and create a section of music that can be performed within the context of the unit song. * Talk about how it was created. * Listen to and reflect upon the developing composition and make musical decisions about pulse, rhythm, pitch, dynamics and tempo.   Record the composition in any way appropriate that recognises the connection between sound and symbol (e.g. graphic/pictorial notation). |
| Performance | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * Performing is sharing music with other people, an audience * A performance doesn’t have to be a drama! It can be to one person or to each other * You need to know and have planned everything that will be performed * You must sing or rap the words clearly and play with confidence * A performance can be a special occasion and involve an audience including of people you don’t know * It is planned and different for each occasion   It involves communicating feelings, thoughts and ideas about the song/music | Skills   * To choose what to perform and create a programme. * To communicate the meaning of the words and clearly articulate them. * To talk about the best place to be when performing and how to stand or sit.   To record the performance and say how they were feeling, what they were pleased with what they would change and why. |

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| **Year Group: 4** | |
| Listen and Appraise | |
| Knowledge  To know five songs from memory and who sang them or wrote them. To know the style of the five songs.  To choose one song and be able to talk about:   * Some of the style indicators of that song (musical characteristics that give the song its style). * The lyrics: what the song is about. * Any musical dimensions featured in the song and where they are used (texture, dynamics, tempo, rhythm and pitch). * Identify the main sections of the song (introduction, verse, chorus etc). * Name some of the instruments they heard in the song. | Skills   * To confidently identify and move to the pulse. * To talk about the musical dimensions working together in the Unit songs eg if the song gets louder in the chorus (dynamics). * Talk about the music and how it makes them feel. * Listen carefully and respectfully to other people’s thoughts about the music. * When you talk try to use musical words. |

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| Singing | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * Singing in a group can be called a choir * Leader or conductor: A person who the choir or group follow * Songs can make you feel different things e.g. happy, energetic or sad * Singing as part of an ensemble or large group is fun, but that you must listen to each other * Texture: How a solo singer makes a thinner texture than a large group * To know why you must warm up your voice | Skills   * To sing in unison and in simple two-parts. * To demonstrate a good singing posture. * To follow a leader when singing. * To enjoy exploring singing solo. * To sing with awareness of being ‘in tune’. * To rejoin the song if lost. * To listen to the group when singing. |
| Playing | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * The instruments used in class (a glockenspiel, recorder or xylophone). * Other instruments they might play or be played in a band or orchestra or by their friends. | Skills   * To treat instruments carefully and with respect. * Play any one, or all four, differentiated parts on a tuned instrument – a   one-note, simple or medium part or the melody of the song from memory or using notation.   * To rehearse and perform their part within the context of the Unit song. * To listen to and follow musical instructions from a leader. * To experience leading the playing by making sure everyone plays in the playing section of the song. |
| Improvisation | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about improvisation:   * Improvisation is making up your own tunes on the spot * When someone improvises, they make up their own tune that has never been heard before. It is not written down and belongs to them. * To know that using one or two notes confidently is better than using five * To know that if you improvise using the notes you are given, you cannot make a mistake * To know that you can use some of the riffs you have heard in the Challenges in your improvisations | Skills  Improvise using instruments in the context of a song they are learning to perform. Use the improvisation tracks provided and improvise using the Bronze, Silver or Gold Challenges.   * Bronze Challenge: ○ Copy Back – Listen and sing back melodic patterns ○ Play and Improvise – Using instruments, listen and play your own answer using one note. ○ Improvise! – Take it in turns to improvise using one note. * Silver Challenge: ○ Sing, Play and Copy Back – Listen and copy back using instruments, using two different notes. ○ Play and Improvise – Using your instruments, listen and play your own answer using one or two notes. ○ Improvise! – Take it in turns to improvise using one or two notes. * Gold Challenge: ○ Sing, Play and Copy Back – Listen and copy back using instruments, two different notes. ○ Play and Improvise – Using your instruments, listen and play your own answer using two different notes. ○ Improvise! – Take it in turns to improvise using three different notes. |

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| Composition | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * A composition: music that is created by you and kept in some way. It’s like writing a story. It can be played or performed again to your friends. * Different ways of recording compositions (letter names, symbols, audio etc.) | Skills   * Help create at least one simple melody using one, three or all five different notes. * Plan and create a section of music that can be performed within the context of the unit song. * Talk about how it was created. * Listen to and reflect upon the developing composition and make musical decisions about pulse, rhythm, pitch, dynamics and tempo. * Record the composition in any way appropriate that recognises the connection between sound and symbol (e.g. graphic/pictorial notation). |
| Performance | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * Performing is sharing music with other people, an audience * A performance doesn’t have to be a drama! It can be to one person or to each other * You need to know and have planned everything that will be performed * You must sing or rap the words clearly and play with confidence * A performance can be a special occasion and involve an audience including of people you don’t know * It is planned and different for each occasion * It involves communicating feelings, thoughts and ideas about the song/music | Skills   * To choose what to perform and create a programme. * Present a musical performance designed to capture the audience. * To communicate the meaning of the words and clearly articulate them. * To talk about the best place to be when performing and how to stand or sit. * To record the performance and say how they were feeling, what they were pleased with what they would change and why. |

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| **Year Group: 5** | |
| Listen and Appraise | |
| Knowledge   * To know five songs from memory, who sang or wrote them, when they were written and, if possible, why? * To know the style of the five songs and to name other songs from the Units in those styles. * To choose two or three other songs and be able to talk about: * Some of the style indicators of the songs (musical characteristics that give the songs their style) * The lyrics: what the songs are about * Any musical dimensions featured in the songs and where they are used (texture, dynamics, tempo, rhythm and pitch) * Identify the main sections of the songs (intro, verse, chorus etc.) * Name some of the instruments they heard in the songs * The historical context of the songs. What else was going on at this time? | Skills   * To identify and move to the pulse with ease. * To think about the message of songs. * To compare two songs in the same style, talking about what stands out musically in each of them, their similarities and differences. * Listen carefully and respectfully to other people’s thoughts about the music. * When you talk try to use musical words. * To talk about the musical dimensions working together in the Unit songs. * Talk about the music and how it makes you feel. |
| Singing | |
| Knowledge   * To know and confidently sing five songs and their parts from memory, and to sing them with a strong internal pulse. * To choose a song and be able to talk about: * Its main features * Singing in unison, the solo, lead vocal, backing vocals or rapping * To know what the song is about and the meaning of the lyrics * To know and explain the importance of warming up your voice | Skills   * To sing in unison and to sing backing vocals. * To enjoy exploring singing solo. To listen to the group when singing. * To demonstrate a good singing posture. * To follow a leader when singing. * To experience rapping and solo singing. * To listen to each other and be aware of how you fit into the group. * To sing with awareness of being ‘in tune’. |
| Playing | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about: | Skills   * Play a musical instrument with the correct technique within the context of the |

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| * Different ways of writing music down – e.g. staff notation, symbols * The notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B + C on the treble stave * The instruments they might play or be played in a band or orchestra or by their friends | Unit song.   * Select and learn an instrumental part that matches their musical challenge, using one of the differentiated parts – a one-note, simple or medium part or the melody of the song from memory or using notation. * To rehearse and perform their part within the context of the Unit song. * To listen to and follow musical instructions from a leader. * To lead a rehearsal session. |
| Improvisation | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about improvisation:   * Improvisation is making up your own tunes on the spot * When someone improvises, they make up their own tune that has never been heard before. It is not written down and belongs to them. * To know that using one or two notes confidently is better than using five * To know that if you improvise using the notes you are given, you cannot make a mistake * To know that you can use some of the riffs you have heard in the Challenges in   your improvisations   * To know three well-known improvising musicians | Skills  Improvise using instruments in the context of a song to be performed. Use the improvisation tracks provided and improvise using the Bronze, Silver or Gold Challenges.   1. Play and Copy Back ○ Bronze – Copy back using instruments. Use one note. ○ Silver – Copy back using instruments. Use the two notes. ○ Gold – Copy back using instruments. Use the three notes. 2. Play and Improvise You will be using up to three notes: ○ Bronze – Question and Answer using instruments. Use one note in your answer. ○ Silver – Question and Answer using instruments. Use two notes in your answer. Always start on a G.    * Gold – Question and Answer using instruments. Use three notes in your answer. Always start on a G.   3. Improvisation! You will be using up to three notes. The notes will be provided on-screen and in the lesson plan: ○ Bronze – Improvise using one note. ○ Silver – Improvise using two notes. ○ Gold – Improvise using three notes.  Classroom Jazz 2 – Improvise with a feeling for the style of Bossa Nova and Swing using the notes D, E, G, A + B (pentatonic scale/a five-note pattern) |
| Composition | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * A composition: music that is created by you and kept in some way. It’s like writing a story. It can be played or performed again to your friends. * A composition has pulse, rhythm and pitch that work together and are shaped   by tempo, dynamics, texture and structure   * Notation: recognise the connection between sound and symbol | Skills   * Create simple melodies using up to five different notes and simple rhythms that work musically with the style of the Unit song. * Explain the keynote or home note and the structure of the melody. * Listen to and reflect upon the developing composition and make musical decisions about how the melody connects with the song. * Record the composition in any way appropriate that recognises the connection between sound and symbol (e.g. graphic/pictorial notation). |
| Performance | |
| Knowledge | Skills |

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| To know and be able to talk about:   * Performing is sharing music with other people, an audience * A performance doesn’t have to be a drama! It can be to one person or to each other * Everything that will be performed must be planned and learned * You must sing or rap the words clearly and play with confidence * A performance can be a special occasion and involve an audience including of people you don’t know * It is planned and different for each occasion * A performance involves communicating ideas, thoughts and feelings about the song/music | * To choose what to perform and create a programme. * To communicate the meaning of the words and clearly articulate them. * To talk about the venue and how to use it to best effect. * To record the performance and compare it to a previous performance. * To discuss and talk musically about it – “What went well?” and “It would have been even better if...?” |

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| **Year Group: 6** | |
| Listen and Appraise | |
| Knowledge   * To know five songs from memory, who sang or wrote them, when they were written and why? * To know the style of the songs and to name other songs from the Units in those | Skills   * To identify and move to the pulse with ease. * To think about the message of songs. |

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| styles.   * To choose three or four other songs and be able to talk about: * The style indicators of the songs (musical characteristics that give the songs their style) * The lyrics: what the songs are about * Any musical dimensions featured in the songs and where they are used (texture, dynamics, tempo, rhythm, pitch and timbre) * Identify the structure of the songs (intro, verse, chorus etc.) * Name some of the instruments used in the songs * The historical context of the songs. What else was going on at this time, musically and historically? * Know and talk about that fact that we each have a musical identity | * To compare two songs in the same style, talking about what stands out musically in each of them, their similarities and differences. * Listen carefully and respectfully to other people’s thoughts about the music. * Use musical words when talking about the songs. * To talk about the musical dimensions working together in the Unit songs. * Talk about the music and how it makes you feel, using musical language to describe the music. |
| Singing | |
| Knowledge   * To know and confidently sing five songs and their parts from memory, and to sing them with a strong internal pulse. * To know about the style of the songs so you can represent the feeling and   context to your audience   * To choose a song and be able to talk about: * Its main features ○ Singing in unison, the solo, lead vocal, backing vocals or rapping * To know what the song is about and the meaning of the lyrics * To know and explain the importance of warming up your voice | Skills   * To sing in unison and to sing backing vocals. * To demonstrate a good singing posture. * To follow a leader when singing. * To experience rapping and solo singing. * To listen to each other and be aware of how you fit into the group. * To sing with awareness of being ‘in tune’. |
| Playing | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * Different ways of writing music down – e.g. staff notation, symbols * The notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B + C on the treble stave * The instruments they might play or be played in a band or orchestra or by their friends | Skills   * Play a musical instrument with the correct technique within the context of the Unit song. * Select and learn an instrumental part that matches their musical challenge, using one of the differentiated parts – a one-note, simple or medium part or the melody of the song from memory or using notation. * To rehearse and perform their part within the context of the Unit song. * To listen to and follow musical instructions from a leader. * To lead a rehearsal session. |
| Improvisation | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about improvisation:   * Improvisation is making up your own tunes on the spot * When someone improvises, they make up their own tune that has never been heard before. It is not written down and belongs to them. * To know that using one, two or three notes confidently is better than using five * To know that if you improvise using the notes you are given, you cannot make a mistake * To know that you can use some of the riffs and licks you have learnt in the Challenges in your improvisations   To know three well-known improvising musicians | Skills  Improvise using instruments in the context of a song to be performed. Use the improvisation tracks provided and improvise using the Bronze, Silver or Gold Challenges:   * Play and Copy Back ○ Bronze – Copy back using instruments. Use one note. ○ Silver – Copy back using instruments. Use the two notes. ○ Gold – Copy back using instruments. Use the three notes. * Play and Improvise You will be using up to three notes: ○ Bronze – Question and Answer using instruments. Use one note in your answer. ○ Silver – Question and Answer using instruments. Use two notes in your answer. Always start on a G. * Gold – Question and Answer using instruments. Use three notes in your answer. Always start on a G. * Improvisation! You will be using up to three notes. The notes will be provided on-screen and in the lesson plan: ○ Bronze – Improvise using one note. ○ Silver – Improvise using two notes. * Gold – Improvise using three notes.   Classroom Jazz 2 – Improvise with a feeling for the style of Bossa Nova and Swing using the notes D, E, G, A + B (pentatonic scale/a five-note pattern) |

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| Composition | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * A composition: music that is created by you and kept in some way. It’s like writing a story. It can be played or performed again to your friends. * A composition has pulse, rhythm and pitch that work together and are shaped by tempo, dynamics, texture and structure * Notation: recognise the connection between sound and symbol | Skills   * Create simple melodies using up to five different notes and simple rhythms that work musically with the style of the Unit song. * Explain the keynote or home note and the structure of the melody. * Listen to and reflect upon the developing composition and make musical decisions about how the melody connects with the song. * Record the composition in any way appropriate that recognises the connection between sound and symbol (e.g. graphic/pictorial notation) |
| Performance | |
| Knowledge  To know and be able to talk about:   * Performing is sharing music with an audience with belief * A performance doesn’t have to be a drama! It can be to one person or to each other * Everything that will be performed must be planned and learned * You must sing or rap the words clearly and play with confidence * A performance can be a special occasion and involve an audience including of people you don’t know * It is planned and different for each occasion * A performance involves communicating ideas, thoughts and feelings about the song/music | Skills   * To choose what to perform and create a programme. * To communicate the meaning of the words and clearly articulate them. * To talk about the venue and how to use it to best effect. * To record the performance and compare it to a previous performance. * To discuss and talk musically about it – “What went well?” and “It would have been even better if...?” |