

Music Curriculum Overview 2025-2026

Year 1/2

Dynamics

Exploring the connections between music, sounds, and environments, children aim to represent the seaside. They use percussion instruments, vocal sounds, and body percussion to create sounds like crashing waves, calling seagulls, and rustling sand. They use voices and instruments to practice varying dynamics—showing a contrast between loud and soft sounds

Musical Theatre

An introduction to musical theatre, learning how singing, acting and dancing can be combined to give an overall performance, exploring how music can be used to tell a story and learning about performance aspects.

Sound Patterns

Examining different favourite fairy tales, children discuss the key moments in these stories. They are guided to clap and read simple sound patterns, matching the different characters of the story. Pupils then use these sound patterns to retell the fairy tale, bringing the story to life through sound and movement.

Contrasting Dynamics

Developing knowledge and understanding of contrasting dynamics, children listen to different pieces of music that represent planets and use these musical examples to inspire their own compositions. They explore how varying loud and soft sounds can capture the unique characteristics of two different planets.

Call and Response

Chanting different call and response sound patterns, children progress to creating their own call and response patterns using untuned percussion instruments. They practise rhythm and pulse as they echo and respond to each other's chants, building a strong sense of musical communication.

Structure

Exploring structure through listening, analysing, and performing, children engage with a song about a well-known myth to understand its composition. They listen to identify sections, analyse simple sound patterns, and see how these elements tell the story of the myth. Pupils then perform short sound patterns in a simple structure using instruments and voices.

Music Curriculum Overview 2025-2026

Year 3/4

Creating a Composition in response to an Animation

Listening to music and considering the narrative it represents by paying close attention to the dynamics, pitch and tempo and how they change throughout the piece. Creating original compositions to match an animation.

Changes in Pitch, Tempo and Dynamics

Representing the different stages of a river through vocal and percussive ostinatos, culminating in a final group performance.

Rock and Roll

Learning about the origin and features of rock and roll music, playing the Hand Jive and Rock Around the Clock, looking specifically at a walking bass line, and performing a while-class piece.

Samba and Carnival Sounds and Instruments

Introducing samba and the sights and sounds of the carnival. Learning about the traditional sounds and instruments, syncopated rhythms and composing their samba breaks.

Instrumental Unit - Trumpets

Learning how to play a brass instrument to play simple tunes, thinking about the different notes and note length, culminating in a performance at the end of term.

Musical Theatre

An introduction to musical theatre, learning how singing, acting and dancing can be combined to give an overall performance, exploring how music can be used to tell a story and learning about performance aspects.

Music Curriculum Overview 2025-2026

Year 5

Composition Notation

Identifying the pitch and rhythm of written notes and experimenting with notating their compositions in different ways to further develop understanding of staff notation.

South and West Africa

Learning 'Shosholoza', a traditional South African song, playing the accompanying chords using tuned percussion and learning to play the djembe and some dance moves.

Blues

Identifying the key features and mood of Blues music and its importance and purpose. Learning the 12-bar Blues and the Blues scale, and combining these to create an improvised piece with a familiar, repetitive backing.

Composition to represent the Festival of Colour

Exploring the associations between music, sounds and colour; composing and, as a class and performing their own musical composition.

Musical Theatre

An introduction to musical theatre, learning how singing, acting and dancing can be combined to give an overall performance, exploring how music can be used to tell a story and learning about performance aspects.

Looping and Remixing

Learning how dance music is created, focusing particularly on the use of loops, and learning how to play a well known song before putting a dance music spin on it to create their own versions.

Music Curriculum Overview 2025-2026

Year 6

Film Music

Exploring and identifying the characteristics of film music.
Creating a composition and graphic score to perform alongside a film.

Theme and Variation

Exploring the musical concept of theme and variations and discovering how rhythms can 'translate' onto different instruments.

Songs of WW2

Developing greater accuracy in pitch and control. Identifying pitches within an octave when singing and using knowledge of pitch to develop confidence when singing in parts.

Dynamics, Pitch and Texture

Appraising the work of Mendelssohn and further developing the skills of improvisation and composition.

Musical Theatre

An introduction to musical theatre, learning how singing, acting and dancing can be combined to give an overall performance, exploring how music can be used to tell a story and learning about performance aspects.

Composing and Performing a Leavers Song

Creating their own leavers' song personal to their experiences as a class; listening to and critiquing well known songs, writing the lyrics, exploring the concept of the four chord backing track and composing melodies.