

Music Skills Progression

Class 1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Performing

- Keep a steady pulse using body percussion and instruments.
- Join in with simple songs and chants.
- Match actions to a musical pulse.
- Play untuned percussion with increasing control.
- Perform simple class pieces.

Rhythm

- Copy and repeat simple rhythmic patterns.
- Distinguish between pulse and rhythm.
- Combine pulse and rhythm when performing.
- Create simple rhythm sequences.

Pitch

- Identify high and low sounds.
- Use voices to explore pitch changes.
- Sing simple melodies accurately.
- Play simple two- and three-note patterns on tuned instruments.

Composition

- Choose sounds to represent ideas, stories and characters.
- Create simple soundscapes.
- Develop and perform group compositions.
- Evaluate and discuss what worked well.

Listening and Appraising

- Identify different instruments.
- Describe music using simple vocabulary.
- Recognise mood and character in music.
- Respond physically and verbally to music.

Instrumental Skills

- Explore percussion instruments.
- Play Boomwhackers to a steady pulse.
- Begin playing simple melodies on glockenspiels.

Class 2 (Years 3 and 4)

Performing

- Maintain a steady pulse independently.
- Perform as part of an ensemble.
- Play tuned and untuned instruments accurately.
- Perform simple melodic and rhythmic compositions.

Rhythm and Notation

- Read and perform crotchets and quavers.
- Understand bars and basic time signatures (2/4, 3/4, 4/4).
- Create rhythmic patterns using notation.
- Record simple musical ideas.

Pitch

- Play notes accurately on glockenspiels and recorders.
- Follow melodic notation.
- Perform simple melodies from note names and notation.

Singing

- Sing in tune with growing control.
- Perform rounds and simple two-part songs.
- Maintain an independent part when singing.

Composition

- Create rhythmic and melodic phrases.
- Use simple notation to record ideas.
- Compose short structured pieces using patterns and layers.
- Create and perform four-bar compositions.

Listening and Appraising

- Compare different musical styles and genres.
- Identify musical elements within listening activities.
- Discuss how music is organised.

Instrumental Skills

Glockenspiels

- Play C, D and E accurately.
- Perform simple melodies.

Recorders

- Demonstrate correct posture and breathing.
- Play notes B, A, G, C and D.
- Perform simple tunes.

Ukulele

- Identify parts of the instrument.
- Strum open strings.
- Play simple chords and accompaniments.

Class 3 (Years 5 and 6)

Performing

- Maintain pulse independently within ensemble performance.
- Perform confidently in small groups and larger ensembles.
- Rehearse and refine performances.
- Evaluate performances and suggest improvements.

Rhythm

- Read and perform complex rhythms.
- Understand and perform syncopated rhythms.
- Layer contrasting rhythmic patterns.
- Use rhythm creatively in compositions.

Pitch and Melody

- Play melodies accurately from staff notation.
- Demonstrate fluency across a wider note range.
- Perform ensemble parts independently.

Singing

- Sing rounds and simple harmonies.
- Maintain individual parts within group performances.
- Combine singing with instrumental accompaniment.

Composition

- Compose extended pieces using melody, rhythm, texture and structure.
- Create original compositions individually and collaboratively.
- Develop, refine and rehearse musical ideas.
- Evaluate and improve compositions.

Notation

- Read and write staff notation.
- Understand treble clef notation.
- Record rhythms and melodies accurately.
- Use notation to support composition and performance.

Listening and Appraising

- Analyse musical features across genres.
- Recognise syncopation, texture and harmony.
- Discuss the impact of musical choices.
- Reflect critically on performances.

Instrumental Skills**Recorders**

- Read notation fluently.
- Play ensemble parts accurately.
- Develop performance confidence.

Ukulele

- Play chords including C, Am, F and G.
- Perform chord sequences.
- Use varied strumming patterns.
- Accompany singing.

Boomwhackers

- Play ensemble parts.
- Explore chord structures.
- Support composition and performance work.