



MUSIC

Plans for the KS3 Curriculum

Year Group	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
7	Exploring Voices To build on musical skills developed in primary school understanding that children come to secondary school with varied musical experiences. To strengthen pupils' ability to sing in tune, in harmony and to develop their ability to emote and express themselves through music. Students will also gain an understanding of using music to engage with communities.	Exploring Rhythms Understanding pulse, rhythm and tempo is an integral skill in music. In addition to musical experiences in primary school students internalise rhythm and pulse through engagement with music inside and outside school. Describing and representing rhythms using a given system of notation lay the foundations to further understand using standard notation used in Western Classical music and also to understanding using piano roll editors in digital audio workstations.	Musical Foundations – Standard Notation and Keyboard Skills Western music notation is studied and valued as a universal language. It is recognised to record, preserve and communicate musical ideas and is a standardised form of notation. Learning the basics of musical notation provides opportunities for students to engage with monumental pieces of performance art throughout history and further use it to record their own original ideas.	Simple Songs All children are entitled to a vast and varied experience of music. With the knowledge of the basics of musical notation and keyboard skills, children are now introduced to string instruments, developing additional skills specific to making music in groups.	Instruments of the Orchestra Playing in large mixed instrument ensembles fosters musical appreciation, develops cognitive and motor skills, and enhances social development. Exposure to different instruments broadens children's understanding of music, while learning to play an instrument can improve memory, focus, and self-confidence.	Introduction to Soundtrap Technology plays a large role in the way children engage with and acquire knowledge. Many children have access to smartphones, however, do not always have access to a musical instrument. Making music using technology enables children to make music anywhere, acting on inspiration whilst on the move. Music technology plays a large and vital role in the music industry.



8	Introduction to World Music Traditions Experiencing and understanding music from around the world is crucial to understanding how music relates to cultures, locations, circumstances and people. Students learn how to detect and create authentic musical sounds which are key to developing intentional creativity and link to making music for specific purposes. Studying musical traditions helps us spot and appreciate similarities and differences in cultures, religions and societies, making us more aware of each other.	Music Traditions – South Asian Music South Asian music has a broad appeal, attracting audiences from diverse backgrounds due to its versatility, experimentation, and fusion of various musical styles. Technology plays a large role in current Bollywood music. Children and parents in our school community are familiar with South Asian music, e.g. Bollywood, Carnatic, Hindustani, Qawalli music, which can have important significance to culture.	Composition Techniques Students have gained much experience in performing and listening and appraising music. They have had opportunities to compose short sketches in a variety of musical styles. This composition project will develop students' creative, technical and interpersonal skills. Studying compositional devices and other composers' works will lay the foundations for advanced, efficient and coherent musical composition.	Composition Techniques Composition is the most difficult of the three skill areas of performing, composing and listening and appraising. Students are given time to fully understand and apply their knowledge of compositional techniques to gain confidence and proficiency in composing in various styles.	African Music Studying African music is important for understanding its cultural significance, historical influence, and its role in shaping global music genres. It provides insight into African societies, their traditions, and the ways music serves as a form of communication, storytelling, and social commentary. Furthermore, African music has profoundly impacted various musical styles worldwide, including blues, jazz, and pop, making its study essential for a comprehensive understanding of musical evolution.	Blues Learning the blues is crucial in music due to its foundational role in many genres and its expressive power. It serves as a springboard for understanding various musical styles, including jazz, rock and roll, and R&B, while also offering a powerful means of emotional expression. The 12-bar blues structure and unique scales provide a framework that can be adapted and built upon in countless musical contexts.
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9	Reggae	Music of the Middle East	Music for Film and Media - Performance	Music for Film and Media – Composition	Western Art Music	Protest Music
	In year 8, children have studied African music and Blues music, both of which had a strong influence on Reggae as a genre. Reggae is a unique form of rock music which originated in Jamaica. It has its roots in several other musical styles. You can hear the influence of traditional Jamaican music as well as American rhythm ‘n’ blues, which would have been easily picked up in Jamaica in the early days of radio. Reggae further consolidates children's ability to work together using set song structures to create and enjoy music.	Learning about Middle Eastern music broadens children's cultural understanding, promotes empathy, and enhances cognitive skills. Exposure to diverse musical styles can foster a greater appreciation for different cultures, encourage open-mindedness, and stimulate creativity and critical thinking. Our school community has close links with Middle Eastern culture.	Studying music for film and media provides children with a unique opportunity to develop critical thinking, creative expression, and an understanding of how sound and music shape our experiences with visual media. It enhances their appreciation for film, helps them understand how music enhances storytelling, and can even boost other academic skills. Developing awareness of how music and music related skills are used in film and media also links directly to the music industry and careers in music.	After performing a famous film theme and understanding how the theme was developed, children then <i>apply</i> their knowledge and skill to compose music and design sound for a chosen film scene. These unit further develops the skills that children learnt during their composition project in year 8, now with more focused application.	Western Art Music has played an important role in the development of music and means to communicate musical ideas using standard musical notation. Learning about and engaging with Western Art music from different periods in music enables children to engage with the development of Western Music through history.	Protest songs are musical pieces associated with movements for social change and are part of the broader category of topical songs. These songs can be powerful tools for expressing dissent, inspiring action, and fostering solidarity. They often address issues like social injustice, inequality, and political oppression. Students will be able to use music - sung and played to represent outlooks, express opinions and inspire action.