

# MUSIC CURRICULUM MAP 2025 - 2026

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## YEAR ONE

- Discuss music the children like (pop music). Give reasons why. Play keyboard and percussion instruments using a range of three notes.
- Increase the range of notes and swap instruments within peer group. Begin to follow direction during a performance, louder, softer, etc.
- Increase the range of simple songs, using voices. Control voices, singing softly or loudly as required. Introducing signing in songs eg. Rock Vox
- Listening skills will be developed using different sounds on electronic keyboards and also by introducing live and recorded audio performances by known bands/singers.
- Simple ensemble pieces will be played to develop a repertoire of pieces in advance of the Ensemble Examination. Children will be taught presentation skills.
- Cross-curricular links to art/technology in the form of making a music programme. A range of World Music instruments will be used to broaden the musical experience of the children.

## YEAR TWO

- Songs, many original compositions to be sung. These reflect the values, aims and mission statement of the school.
- Through instrumental performance, children will learn a repertoire of pieces in an ensemble setting. Pieces include: Reggae Four, Rise and Fall
- Children will begin to learn composition skills, having been given a framework and guidance, initially restricted to five notes on keyboard instruments.
- The Rock It Teacher will demonstrate skills on the full range of classroom instruments (Drum Kit, Keyboard, Glockenspiel, Melodica). Students will have the opportunity to try each one.
- Ukuleles will be played by the whole class. By adding a string instrument, the children will develop a greater understanding of the different elements of music making.
- Classes will sing and provide their own accompaniment. Songs from Autumn 1 will be re-visited and improved using instrumental accompaniment and enhanced vocal skills eg. Shosholoz, My School

## YEAR THREE

- The advantages and benefits of playing a musical instrument will be discussed. Children will listen to recorded music and asked to decide which instrument is their favourite. Ensemble skills through practical performance encouraged.
- Traditional notation will be taught. Children will have a working knowledge of Italian Musical terms: piano, forte, repeat marks, etc. Through singing as a choir, classes will use their voices expressively eg. Search For The Hero.
- History of music, relative to the pieces played in the class orchestra will be discussed eg. Rock and Roll from 1950s will be the first topic. Shake, Rattle and Roll, etc. Elvis Presley and America in 1950s.
- Individual skills will be improved and developed on each instrument. Sound technique will be reinforced in each discipline, from percussion (drum kit), to keyboard (correct hand position and fingering).
- Classes will prepare a repertoire of pieces for the Ensemble Examination and assessment. Harmonies will be introduced to previously taught repertoire and children encouraged to challenge themselves to achieve the best possible performance.
- A Music Ensemble Examination will be taken. Children will also be invited to perform in concerts in and out of the school setting. KS2 children will be invited to perform as part of an area steel band.

## YEAR FOUR

- Children will be encouraged to play solo sections in pieces, thus gaining confidence and raising self esteem.
- Live and recorded music will be played to the class. They will be asked to recall details of the performance they have just heard, to include instruments used, tempo, etc
- Harmonies will be explained and used to enhance the class ensemble performance. Notated sheets will be used, along with worksheets relating to theory of music
- Composition and improvisation will be explored by working in small groups. When complete, the class composition will be recorded onto CD. The technology will be explained.
- An advanced level of World Music percussion styles will be played, using Djembe, Samba and Asian drums. Authentic African patterns (IBO) will be played
- A varied selection of styles and pieces will be presented for the end-of-year assessment to include and reflect string, percussion and world music instruments.

## YEAR FIVE

- Through class performance and music topics, famous composers and their styles will be discussed and played. Social and music impact will be discussed eg. Beatles, Queen, Brit Pop.
- Students will understand traditional music notation including note values, pitch names and time signatures. This knowledge will be applied to practical performances in the class band.
- By splitting into small groups, children will compose a class piece of music in a style of their choice (Rock, Pop, Ballad, etc). This will then be played and recorded, discussing the structure and texture of the piece.
- By singing Blinded By Your Grace and signing the song, increasing accuracy will be evident in the performances. The ability to accompany will be explained and timbre, balance and relative volume taught.
- Improvisation in the form of solo sections within a 12 bar chord sequence will be played. Blues and Rock and Roll music, when played by the class, will contain improvised solos. History of blues to be discussed and appraised.
- In preparing for a Level 3 Ensemble Exam, the class will include: Harmony, presentation skills, solo performance, sound technique, advanced drum kit skills, knowledge of pulse and tempo.

## YEAR SIX

- Traditions in music and classical composers will be studied, with appropriate pieces performed eg Pachelbels Canon.
- Keyboard and other instrumental skills will be developed. Students to play with both hands together in certain, selected passages of music. The full drum kit, including feet pedals will be used to create rhythmic variation.
- Traditional notation will be used for most pieces. Graphic scores will be made too and the difference/applications discussed.
- Composition using a full range of chromatic notes will be taught for the first time. Structure will be relaxed, giving the student more freedom to express musical ideas and influences.
- In preparing for a Level 3 or 4 Ensemble Examination, classes will produce and demonstrate excellent ensemble skills, listening and evaluating their performance throughout. (NQF AS Level)
- The opportunity to take part in a variety of live music performances will be offered in and out of school. Musicians from Year 6 can experience performing as part of an area band at carnivals and festivals, raising confidence and self-esteem.

Areas of study covered during the academic year.

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