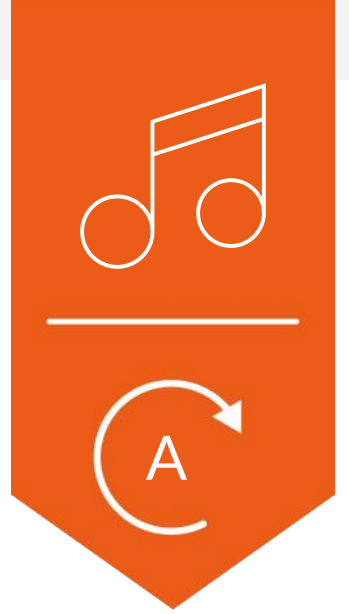


Curriculum overview for parents and carers

Music 2026/27

A summary of key Music learning for Reception to Year 5/6.



Unit 1	Exploring sound Exploring how we can use our voice, bodies and instruments to make sounds and identifying sounds in the environment.
Unit 2	Celebration music Learning about the music from a range of cultural and religious celebrations, including Diwali, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas.
Unit 3	Music and movement Creating simple actions to well-known songs, the children learn how to move to a beat and expressing feelings and emotions through movement to music.
Unit 4	Musical stories Moving to music using instructions and changing movements to match the tempo, pitch or dynamics. The children also recognise that music and instruments can convey moods or represent characters.
Unit 5	Transport Identifying and copying sounds produced by different vehicles using voices, bodies and instruments. The children identify tempo changes and how symbols can represent sound.
Unit 6	Big band Exploring what makes a musical instrument and how instruments are grouped into different families. The children develop their sense of beat using untuned percussion instruments and perform a song.



Year 1/2 Cycle A

Autumn 1	My favourite things: Keeping the pulse Learning how to keep a steady pulse, pupils take part in music and movement activities inspired by their favourite things. They move to the beat of the music while expressing and responding to objects and experiences that are meaningful to them.	Autumn 2	Snail and mouse: Tempo Using voices, bodies and instruments to listen and respond to different pieces of music, pupils learn and perform a rhyme and song with a focus on tempo. Through the adventures of the snail and mouse, they explore how tempo can help shape a musical story.
Spring 1	Superheroes: Pitch Identifying high and low notes, pupils listen to different pitches and use this to compose a simple superhero tune. They experiment with combining high and low sounds to create a melody that reflects their chosen character.	Spring 2	Musical storytelling: Instruments Exploring longer pieces of music, pupils look at how music can tell a story through a variety of instruments. They think creatively, considering how sounds can represent characters, actions and emotions when creating a soundscape to tell the story of Jack and the Beanstalk.
Summer 1	On this island: Singing Identifying how music can represent different environments by singing songs and creating contrasting soundscapes. Pupils use instruments, body percussion and folk songs to evoke the atmosphere of three different landscapes.	Summer 2	Musical Me: Pitch Developing pitch awareness through learning the song 'Once a Man Fell in a Well' and recreating its melody using tuned instruments. Pupils connect sounds to specific pitches and begin to understand how simple symbols can be used to represent musical notation.

Year 3/4 Cycle A

Autumn 1

Mountain melodies: Steps and leaps

Investigating melody and pitch through using graphic scores to identify changes in pitch by step, leap or repeated note. Pupils compose short melodic pieces inspired by mountain drawings before experimenting with dynamics and movement to bring their musical landscapes to life.

Autumn 2

Inspired by India: Musical improvisations

Exploring traditional Indian music and the art of improvisation through using the pentatonic scale and simple musical techniques. Pupils create short improvisations and experiment with pitch, dynamics and tempo to express different moods and musical ideas.

Spring 1

Reading rhythms: Patterns and layers

Introducing basic rhythmic notation, pupils learn how rhythms can be written, read and performed. Through clapping, body percussion and instruments, pupils recognise and play simple rhythmic patterns before creating layered group compositions using notation.

Spring 2

Music technology: Introduction to music technology

Studying sampling as a modern compositional technique, pupils discover how existing sounds can be transformed into new musical ideas. Using music technology, they edit audio samples, experiment with looping and layering and develop their own digital compositions.

Summer 1

Sounds of China: Scales and structure

Examining traditional Chinese music through listening, improvising and performing, pupils deepen their understanding of the pentatonic scale. They create their own improvisations with a focus on structure and contrast, while developing collaborative and creative thinking skills through group performance.

Summer 2

Baroque meets pop: Building harmony

Discovering how Baroque music's bold musical ideas continue to inspire modern pop songs. Pupils identify key features of the Baroque style before learning and performing patterns and motifs in their own Baroque-inspired piece.

Year 5/6 Cycle A

Autumn 1	Three-chord pop: Playing in a band	Autumn 2	Four-chord pop: Playing in a band
	Investigating the key elements of pop music, including bass lines, chords and melody, by performing as part of a pop band. Pupils develop their musical and performance skills while learning how different musical parts combine to create a polished group performance.		Developing ensemble performance skills by forming pop bands. Pupils learn bass lines, chords, melody and harmony from a well-known pop song before rehearsing and refining their performances with added rhythm, creativity and expression.
Spring 1	Bhangra beats: Global grooves	Spring 2	Music technology: Film soundtracks
	Discovering the rhythms, melodies and cultural traditions of Punjabi music and dance by listening, performing and experimenting with musical ideas. Pupils develop their understanding of rhythm and melody before composing and performing their own Bhangra-inspired piece.		Exploring how music and film work together to create mood, atmosphere and meaning. Pupils identify key musical features in film, use music technology to synchronise sound with video and enhance film clips with sound effects, loops and original musical ideas.
Summer 1	Theme and variations: Developing melodies	Summer 2	Songs that speak: Lyrics and messages
	Investigating the musical form of theme and variations through combining a range of composition techniques. Pupils experiment with changing rhythm, pitch, dynamics and texture to transform a simple theme and compose their own contrasting variations.		Examining how songs communicate meaning through lyrics, musical choices and performance. Pupils explore songwriting techniques such as rhyme, repetition and emotive language before creating, rehearsing and performing their own lyrics based on themes of identity, positivity and self-expression.