



Spotlight on Assessment



## WHY MUSIC?

Music is all around us. It is the soundtrack to our lives. Music connects us through people and places in our ever-changing world. It is creative, collaborative, celebratory and challenging. The sheer joy of music making can feed the soul of a school community, enriching each student while strengthening the shared bonds of support and trust which make a great school.

Model Music Curriculum (March 2021)



We aim for our pupils to:

- be musicians, not just simply experience music but to 'get better at it'.
- have regular opportunities to return to and consolidate their short-term learning, while gradually introducing new ideas, methods and concepts
- develop control over the sound they are producing.
- access whole class instrumental teaching



"The central purpose of good music education is for pupils to make more music, think more musically and consequently become more musical. It's not just notes on a page; it's a symphony of fun and excitement that shapes their future"

# **CURRICULUM DESIGN**

The music curriculum is designed to assess what children know and remember over time, as well as assessing the development of skills and pupils' understanding of how we communicate and express ourselves through the power of music.

#### **Technical**

The development of motor skills for music is an important aspect of controlling and understanding sound. Pupils' ability to control sound, through singing, playing instruments, or using music technology, helps them to get better at performing, composing and listening to music.

#### Constructive

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This refers to knowledge of how the building blocks of music come together, both analytically and in the creative process. It includes knowledge of the musical elements/interrelated dimensions of music and the building blocks of composition.

#### **Expressive**

This focuses on the less definable aspects of music: quality, meaning and creativity. Our research review identified that musical expression in performance depends on the highly developed technical expertise of the performer. This is combined with what a performer knows and understands about the music they are playing, both specifically and in terms of the wider culture in which the music exists.

Aligned to the pillars of music progression, our curriculum is designed with procedural knowledge as the foundation of performing and composing (performing a task, such as playing an instrument) and declarative knowledge (content that can be discussed such as notation, keys and chords, or musical culture) to underpin advanced musical thinking.

- The curriculum scope takes into account what can realistically be learned, rather than encountered, in the time available.
- The curriculum build pupils' **procedural knowledge (technical)** in controlling sound. Building up in a way that is gradual, iterative and coherent.
- **Compositional components (constructive)** are identified for development and given sufficient practice time.
- The curriculum supports pupils to deepen the knowledge of the music elements when listening to music.

# A THRESHOLD CURRICULUM

Threshold Concepts are carefully interleaved within the curriculum from EYFS to KS5 so that they are revisited and reinforced with different content and context attached to the concept over time.

In music, there are seven key interrelated threshold concepts, which when combined, ensure that our students can access a deep understanding of the subject. The threshold concepts relate to core aspects of disciplinary knowledge and substantive knowledge. As students progress through the curriculum narratives, so should their understanding of the threshold concepts:

> The **pulse or pitch** of music is the underlying and steady beat in a phrase or piece of music. This involves:

- Exploring how to feel the pulse of a piece of music using body percussion to demonstrate.
- Identifying and working with different tempos and recognising changes to tempo.
- Understanding time signatures and how to respond to these in a piece of music.



- **Rhythm** involves the changing pattern of beats that make up a piece of music. This involves:
- Exploring rhythmic notation and the equivalent rests involved.
- Investigating syncopation, how this is notated and the effect this has on a piece of music.
- Understanding the concept of a bars and how notation fits within this.



The **melody** of a piece of music is the tune. When studying this, pupils will:

• Explore pitched notation developing as each year progressing initially working with 2 notes building up to exploring an octave range in Year Six.



- **Active Listening and Appraising** involves listening to music and responding by doing something. Pupils will:
- Explore the features of music and musical changes in the piece.
- Identify and compare music from different traditions with two or more parts.
- Understanding why syncopation is used and the effect it has.
- Identify instrumentation, tempos, styles of music and mood and emotion.

**Performing** involves the act of playing or singing music to others. Pupils will:



- Learn how to perform using untuned percussion, body percussion, the voice and tuned instruments.
- Read notation and perform from this.
- Learn how to play an instrument and compose using it.



**Singing** is the act of performing songs or tunes by making musical sounds with the voice. When exploring this, pupils will:

- Sing in unison whilst exploring folk songs.
- Investigate the concepts of singing in rounds and being accompanied with an ostinato.
- Sing in two parts with counter melodies in a given range.
- Sing in tune and with expression, following the direction of the conductor.



**Composing** involves the process of coming up with your own musical ideas that may or may not be recorded. Pupils will learn to:

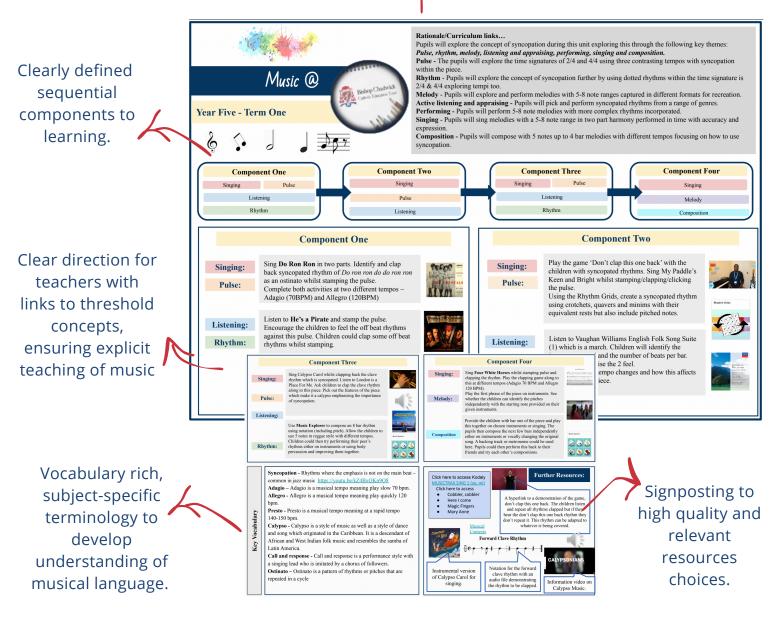
- Use rhythm grids to compose using both representations and standard notation.
- Imitate and compose music using instrumentation or with either the voice or tuned percussion.
- Understand rhythm patterns and how they can be re-created.

### **TEACHER TOOLKIT**

Assessment 'embedded' within the design

Opportunities to know where pupils are with their learning and to identify and address any gaps.

Concise rationale for learning that has been prioritised and how does this learning prepare pupils for the next stages of their learning in music



Lesson sequences are provided as a guide to ensuring sequential learning across a unit and within a particular aspect of music. This allows for agreed knowledge content and consistency. It also provides interactive links to ensure the use of high quality and accurate teaching resources to avoid misconceptions developing over time.

The curriculum identifies precise end points in performance, composition and listening work, and then sets out the knowledge and skills pupils need, step by step, to reach these end points. It builds, incrementally, pupils' knowledge of the technical and constructive aspects of music

The design, intent and implementation of out curriculum enables our teachers to:

- provide ongoing feedback to pupils that improves the quality of pupils' music making both in terms of technique and expressive quality.
- routinely demonstrate to pupils what high-quality musical responses sound like, and the processes for achieving those outcomes.