

Sticky Knowledge Music

Colour-coded spiral curriculum: follow the same colour to see where musical strands are revisited and deepened.

Year	Unit	Substantive knowledge – knowing more	Disciplinary knowledge – must know / be able to	Spiral strand(s)
Reception	Chant to the Animals	Pulse, beat, chants, action songs, vocal expression	Keep and respond to a steady pulse through voice and movement	Musical Elements Singing
	Creative Moves	Music and movement, musical expression, performance	Respond physically to music and use movement to express musical ideas	Musical Elements Performance
	Lifting Lullaby	Pitch, expressive singing, listening	Explore high/low pitch and sing with increasing control and expression	Pitch Singing
	Number Time	Beat, rhythm, familiar songs	Maintain a steady beat and explore simple rhythms	Pulse Rhythm
	Wellbeing Matters	Music as expression, listening, ensemble music-making	Use music to express feelings and listen/respond appropriately	Focused Listening Performance
	Rhythm Adventure	Pulse, rhythm, musical games	Keep a pulse and reproduce simple rhythmic patterns	Pulse Rhythm
Year 1	Rhyming in Time	Pulse, steady beat, simple rhythms	Find and maintain a pulse and perform simple rhythms accurately	Pulse Rhythm
	Let's Start Singing	Singing technique, pitch matching	Match pitch and sing with increasing vocal control	Singing Pitch
	Music Inspired by the World Around Us	Music responding to ideas, composition and performance	Respond creatively to music and create/perform a simple musical response	Focused Listening Composition
	Exploring Rhythm Patterns	Rhythm patterns, simple notation	Read, create and perform simple rhythmic notation	Rhythm Notation
	Sound and Pictures	Representing ideas through sound, composition	Select sounds purposefully and organise them into a simple musical piece	Composition Musical Elements
	Highs and Lows	Pitch, high/low sounds	Identify and explore pitch and demonstrate high/low through singing	Pitch Singing
Year 2	Questions and Answers	Musical conversation, rhythm, improvisation	Improvise simple rhythmic/melodic responses	Improvisation Rhythm
	Let's Keep Singing	Vocal control, expression, ensemble singing	Sing accurately as part of an ensemble with expression	Singing Performance
	Sound and Symbol 1	Notation, melody, tuned instruments	Begin to interpret simple notation and perform a melody	Notation Pitch
	Sound and Symbol 2	Pitch, notation, instrumental performance	Read and perform increasingly developed melodic patterns	Notation Pitch
	Around the World	Musical styles, places and traditions	Listen and respond to music from different styles/traditions	Focused Listening Musical Elements
	The Power of Communication	Music as communication, composition, performance	Use musical elements to communicate an idea and perform it	Composition Performance
Year 3	A Shining Performance	Rehearsal, performance, musical confidence	Rehearse effectively and perform with increasing accuracy/confidence	Performance
	Sing and Move	Singing, movement, musical expression	Combine singing, movement and expression in performance	Singing Performance
	Music and Video	Music for visual media, digital technology	Create and apply music to visual media using technology	Composition Music Technology
	You Gotta Try	Improvisation, rhythm	Improvise rhythmic/musical ideas with increasing confidence	Improvisation Rhythm
	Music and Sound	Music, atmosphere, storytelling	Explain and demonstrate how music can create atmosphere and tell stories	Focused Listening Musical Elements
	Sound Exploration	Timbre, texture, dynamics, critical listening	Identify and manipulate timbre, texture and dynamics when creating music	Focused Listening Musical Elements
Year 4	Create and Notate	Standard notation, composition, recording	Compose, record and read music using standard notation	Notation Composition
	Singing and Traditions	Musical traditions, singing	Sing confidently and recognise that music belongs to different traditions	Singing Focused Listening
	Recycling Songs	Environmental themes, composition	Create an original composition based on a given theme	Composition
	Exploring Musical Contrasts	Dynamics, tempo, texture, expression	Identify and deliberately use contrasting musical features	Musical Elements Focused Listening
	FX Sound Effects	Soundtracks, sound effects, music technology	Use technology to create and combine sound effects/music for a purpose	Music Technology Composition
	Round and Round	Rounds, layers, texture, ensemble	Perform different parts simultaneously and maintain an independent part	Performance Musical Elements
Year 5	Shaping Music	Musical structure, phrasing, expression	Shape a performance through phrasing and expressive choices	Musical Elements Performance
	Unlocking Vocal Potential	Vocal technique, harmony, part singing	Sing confidently in parts and maintain a vocal line within an ensemble	Singing Performance
	Sounds Dramatic	Mood, atmosphere, dramatic effect	Compose music deliberately to create a chosen mood/atmosphere	Composition Musical Elements
	Decoding Sound and Notation	Standard notation, instrumental music	Read notation and translate it accurately into performance	Notation Instrumental Performance

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Year 6	Carnival Time	Samba, rhythm, ensemble drumming	Perform rhythmic patterns as part of an ensemble	Rhythm Instrumental Performance
	Music Speaks	Digital composition, recording, refinement	Create, record, listen back to and refine an original piece	Music Technology Composition
	Discovering Grime	Contemporary music, grime, rhythm, music technology	Explore contemporary musical ideas and apply rhythmic/technological techniques creatively	Focused Listening Rhythm Music Technology
	Express, Inspire and Perform	Expressive singing, ensemble performance	Perform confidently as part of an ensemble with expression	Singing Performance
	Music Reimagined	Transformation, composition, music technology	Transform an existing musical idea creatively	Composition Music Technology
	Musical Sketches	Musical planning, notation, composition	Plan, notate, compose and refine an original musical idea	Composition Notation
	Music Remixed	Digital technology, remixing, editing, production	Use technology to edit, remix and produce music	Music Technology Composition
	The Grand Finale	Listening, performance, improvisation, composition	Bring together listening, performing, improvi	Performance Improvisation Composition

SPIRAL STRAND KEY

Focused Listening	Musical Elements	Pulse	Rhythm
Pitch	Singing	Notation	Improvisation
Composition	Performance	Instrumental Performance	Music Technology

How to read the spiral: follow one colour down the table to see where the same musical strand is revisited; the substantive and disciplinary columns show how the knowledge and application become more sophisticated.