



St Peter's Eaton Square C of E Primary School Music Curriculum

Music Curriculum Overview

Year Group	Curriculum Highlights	Practical Music-Making	Musical Knowledge & Skills	Performance Opportunities
EYFS	Exploring music through play, stories and singing	Singing, body percussion, untuned percussion, musical play	Listening, pulse, beat, rhythm, pitch, exploring sounds and musical expression	Nativity, class performances
Year 1	Building musical foundations	Singing, body percussion, untuned percussion	Pulse, rhythm, dynamics, call and response, graphic notation, improvisation	Class assemblies
Year 2	Developing melody and notation	Singing, tuned and untuned percussion	Pitch, melody, simple notation, composition, improvisation, performance	Assemblies
Year 3	Reading and performing music	Singing, tuned percussion, ensemble playing	Staff notation, melody, rhythm, improvisation, composition	Assemblies and performances
Year 4	Ensemble performance and composition	Singing, tuned and untuned percussion	Playing in parts, ostinato, notation, improvisation, composition and evaluation	Church services, concerts
Year 5	Singing and musical leadership	Singing, tuned and untuned instruments, music technology	Part singing, harmony, expression, notation, composition and performance	Choir, assemblies, performances
Year 6	Independent musicianship	Singing, ensemble performance, music technology	Independent performance, improvisation, composition, notation, leadership and evaluation	End of Year production, church services



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Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Reception	Chant to the Animals Developing pulse, beat and vocal confidence through chants and action songs.	Creative Moves Exploring music through movement, imagination and performance.	Lifting Lullaby Developing pitch, expressive singing and listening.	Number Time Keeping a steady beat and exploring rhythm through familiar songs.	Wellbeing Matters Using music to express feelings, listen carefully and perform together.	Rhythm Adventure Building confidence in rhythm, pulse and musical games.
Year 1	Rhyming in Time Finding the pulse, keeping a steady beat and performing simple rhythms.	Let's Start Singing Developing singing technique, pitch matching and musical confidence.	Music Inspired by the World Around Us Listening creatively and responding through composition and performance.	Exploring Rhythm Patterns Creating, reading and performing rhythm patterns using simple notation.	Sound and Pictures Using sounds to represent ideas and compose simple musical pieces.	Highs and Lows Exploring pitch through singing, listening and performance.
Year 2	Questions and Answers Developing musical conversations through singing, rhythm and improvisation.	Let's Keep Singing Improving vocal control, expression and ensemble singing.	Sound and Symbol 1 Introducing notation and melody using tuned instruments.	Sound and Symbol 2 Developing notation, pitch and instrumental performance.	Around the World Exploring music inspired by different places, styles and traditions.	The Power of Communication Using music to communicate ideas through composition and performance.



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Year 3	A Shining Performance Building confidence through rehearsal and performance.	Sing and Move Developing singing, movement and musical expression.	Music and Video Creating music for visual media using digital technology.	You Gotta Try Developing improvisation, rhythm and musical confidence.	Music and Sound Exploring how music creates atmosphere and tells stories.	Sound Exploration Listening critically and experimenting with timbre, texture and dynamics.
Year 4	Create and Notate Composing, recording and reading music using standard notation.	Singing and Traditions Exploring songs from different musical traditions through confident singing.	Recycling Songs Creating original compositions inspired by environmental themes.	Exploring Musical Contrasts Investigating dynamics, tempo, texture and expressive musical features.	FX Sound Effects Using music technology to compose soundtracks and sound effects.	Round and Round Developing ensemble performance through rounds and layered musical textures.
Year 5	Shaping Music Exploring musical structure, phrasing and expressive performance.	Unlocking Vocal Potential Developing vocal technique, harmony, part singing and performance confidence.	Sounds Dramatic Composing music to create mood, atmosphere and dramatic effect.	Decoding Sound and Notation Applying notation confidently through instrumental performance and composition.	Carnival Time Exploring samba rhythms, ensemble drumming and performance.	Music Speaks Creating, recording and refining original music using digital technology.
Year 6	Discovering Grime Exploring contemporary music through composition, rhythm and music technology.	Express, Inspire and Perform Developing expressive singing and confident ensemble performance.	Music Reimagined Transforming existing musical ideas through creative composition and technology.	Musical Sketches Planning, composing and refining original musical ideas using notation.	Music Remixed Using digital technology to remix, edit and produce music.	The Grand Finale Bringing together listening, performing, improvising and composition in a final celebratory performance.



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Progression of Musical Concepts

Area	EYFS	KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
Listening	Explore and respond to different sounds	Identify instruments and musical features	Compare musical styles using musical vocabulary	Analyse, evaluate and discuss music confidently
Pulse	Keep a steady beat	Maintain pulse through movement and percussion	Maintain pulse independently	Maintain pulse confidently within an ensemble
Rhythm	Copy simple rhythms	Read and perform simple rhythm patterns	Perform more complex rhythms	Compose and perform increasingly sophisticated rhythms
Pitch	Explore high and low sounds	Match and control pitch	Read and perform melodies from notation	Perform confidently with accuracy and expression
Singing	Sing simple songs and rhymes	Sing accurately in unison	Develop expression, phrasing and vocal confidence	Sing confidently in parts with musical expression
Notation	Explore graphic symbols	Read and write simple rhythm notation	Read and perform from staff notation	Apply notation fluently in performance and composition
Improvisation	Explore musical ideas through play	Improvise simple rhythmic and melodic responses	Improvise using melody and rhythm	Improvise confidently with increasing musical structure
Composition	Explore and organise sounds	Create simple musical patterns	Compose melodies and accompaniments	Compose independently using notation and music technology
Performance	Perform to familiar audiences	Perform with increasing confidence	Perform collaboratively as an ensemble	Lead, evaluate and refine performances



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Strand	How it develops across the school
Focused Listening	Pupils listen to and respond to an increasingly wide range of musical styles, genres and traditions, developing musical vocabulary and critical listening skills.
Musical Elements	Pulse, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and expression are revisited throughout the curriculum with increasing depth and complexity.
Notation	Children progress from exploring graphic symbols to reading, writing and applying standard musical notation confidently.
Singing	Singing is central to every year group, supported by specialist-led Key Stage singing assemblies and an enhanced Year 5 vocal curriculum.
Instrumental Performance	Pupils develop practical performance skills through singing, tuned and untuned instruments, applying these skills in solo, paired and ensemble contexts.
Improvisation	Children develop confidence in creating spontaneous musical ideas, progressing from simple rhythmic responses to extended melodic improvisation.
Composition	Pupils compose using voices, instruments and music technology, refining, recording and evaluating their work with increasing independence.
Performance Opportunities	Regular performances in assemblies, church services, concerts and community events enable pupils to apply their learning confidently and contribute to the musical life of the school.

SPIRAL STRAND COLOUR KEY

Colours highlight recurring musical strands across the overview and progression tables. A unit may develop several strands; its colour indicates the main strand highlighted here, rather than the only learning taking place.

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

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