



Music – Year 5-9 2025- 2026

Subject content

Key stage 2 (Years 5-6)

Pupils should be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They should develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

Pupils should be taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music.

Key stage 3 (Years 7-9)

Pupils should build on their previous knowledge and skills through performing, composing and listening. They should develop their vocal and/or instrumental fluency, accuracy and expressiveness; and understand musical structures, styles, genres and traditions, identifying the expressive use of musical dimensions. They should listen with increasing discrimination and awareness to inform their practice as musicians. They should use technologies appropriately and appreciate and understand a wide range of musical contexts and styles.

Pupils should be taught to:

- play and perform confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using their voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy and expression
- improvise and compose; and extend and develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres and traditions
- use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions

- identify and use the inter-related dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices
- listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians
- develop a deepening understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen, and its history.

Topics covered in Year 5

- The Staff, Notes and Pitches
- Treble Clef and Staff
- Bass Clef and Staff
- The Grand Staff
- Ledger Lines
- Note Values
- Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass
- Warm Up Exercises (Singing)
- Score Reading
- Sing Songs from The Book
- Baroque Style
- Baroque Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- Notes, Rests, Durations, Rhythms
- Sound of Instruments, Genres
- Simple Melody Composing
- Warm Up Exercises (Playing Instrument)
- Xylophones, Bongos, Drums, Maracas, Tambourines, Castanets
- Play Songs from The Book
- Measure, Bar Line and Double Bar
- 4/4 Time Signature and Note Values
- Whole, Half and Quarter Rests
- 2/4 Time Signature
- Classical Style
- Classical Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- 3/4 Time Signature
- Dotted Half Note
- Romantic Style

- Romantic Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading

Topics covered in Year 6

- Ties and Slurs
- Repeat Sign, 1st and 2nd Endings
- Eighth Notes
- Eighth Rests
- Dotted Quarter Note
- Dynamic Signs
- Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass
- Warm Up Exercises (Singing)
- Score Reading
- Sing Songs from The Book
- Baroque Style
- Baroque Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- Notes, Rests, Durations, Rhythms
- Sound of Instruments, Genres
- 8 Bars Composing
- Warm Up Exercises (Playing Instrument)
- Posture, Breathing, Melody, Intervals, Triad Chords
- Play Songs from The Book
- Tempo Marks
- Articulation
- D.C., D.S., Coda and Fine
- Flats
- Classical Style
- Classical Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- Sharps
- Naturals
- Romantic Style
- Romantic Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading

Topics covered in Year 7

- Rudiment of Music Theory
- Whole Steps, Half Steps and Enharmonic Notes
- Tetrachords and Major Scales
- The Sharp Scales - G and D Major
- The Flat Scales - F and Bb Major
- Key Signatures - The Sharp Keys
- Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass
- Warm Up Exercises (Singing)
- Score Reading
- Sing Songs from The Book
- Baroque Style
- Baroque Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- Notes, Rests, Durations, Rhythms
- Sound of Instruments, Genres
- 8 Bars Composing
- Warm Up Exercises (Playing Instrument)
- Posture, Breathing, Melody, Intervals, Triad Chords
- Play Songs from The Book
- Key Signatures - The Flat Keys
- The Remaining Major Scales with Key Signatures
- Chromatic Scale
- Intervals
- Classical Style
- Classical Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- Perfect and Major Intervals
- Minor Intervals
- Romantic Style
- Romantic Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading

Topics covered in Year 8

- The Staff, Treble Clef and Bass Clef
- Note Values
- Value of Rests
- Time Signatures
- Repeat Signs
- Dynamics
- Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass
- Warm Up Exercises (Singing)
- Score Reading
- Sing Songs from The Book
- Baroque Style
- Baroque Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- Notes, Rests, Durations, Rhythms
- Sound of Instruments, Genres
- 16 Bars Composing
- Warm Up Exercises (Playing Instrument)
- Posture, Breathing, Melody, Intervals, Triad Chords
- Play Songs from The Book
- Dotted Notes and Rests
- Tones and Semitones
- Understanding Accidentals
- Simple Time Signatures
- Classical Style
- Classical Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- Chromatic and Diatonic Semitones
- Different Kinds of Scales, The Major Scales
- Romantic Style
- Romantic Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading

Topics covered in Year 9

- Rudiment of Music Theory
- The Major Scale with Sharps
- The Major Scale with Flats
- Relative Minor Scales
- The Arpeggio
- The Fermata, Articulations
- Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass
- Warm Up Exercises (Singing)
- Score Reading
- Sing Songs from The Book
- Baroque Style
- Baroque Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- Notes, Rests, Durations, Rhythms
- Sound of Instruments, Genres
- 32 Bars Composing
- Warm Up Exercises (Playing Instrument)
- Posture, Breathing, Melody, Intervals, Triad Chords
- Play Songs from The Book
- The Triplet
- Compound Time Signatures
- Scale Degrees
- To Find the Key of a Given Melody
- Classical Style
- Classical Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading
- Intervals
- Transposing a Melody
- Romantic Style
- Romantic Composers
- Important Works
- Score Reading