Music: Progression of Vocabulary

Key vocabulary by unit · Years 3 to 6

Our music strands

Musical community | Musical celebration | Musical creativity | Musical foundations | Music appreciation

The key vocabulary taught in each unit, by year group.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Whole-class instrumental unit
Year 3	ballad, chorus, compose, dynamics, emotions, ensemble, features, feelings, instrumentals, lyrics, melody, nonsense words, performance, phrases, poem, pop songs, rehearse, rhyme, solo, stanza, story mountain, summarise, tune, verse, vocabulary, volume, backing track, reflect	accuracy, crescendo, control, composition, duration, dynamics, expression, features, fluency, folk music, glockenspiel, grid notation, harmony, layered melodies, letter notation, melody, musical terminology, notation, notes, octaves, pentatonic melody, pentatonic scale, phrases, scale, timbre, tempo, untuned percussion, performance directions, perform	Bollywood, compose, drone, dynamics, harmonium, improvise, Indian flute, lyrics, melodic line, notation, opinion, pitch, repeated rhythm, rhythm, rag, sarangi, sitar, tabla, tala, tempo	music notation, staff notation, tuned percussion, staff, stave, treble clef, lines, spaces, crotchet, beater, grip, bouncing, ostinato, harmonic ostinato, gumboot dance, body percussion, rhythm, minim, semibreve, rest, compose, dynamics
Year 4	body percussion, combine, compose, contrasting rhythms, dynamics, inspiration, layers, loop, organisation, repeated melodies, melody line, pitch, record, rhythm, sections, structure, tempo, texture, tune, tuned percussion, graphic notation, staff notation, evaluate, perform	a cappella, breath control, cue, diction, directing, dynamics, expression, harmony line, layer, melody, mood, notation, opinion, ostinato, percussion, in the round, parts, rhythm, staff notation, tempo, texture, vocal ostinato, percussive ostinato	backing track, bass line, beat, call and response, compose, crotchet, dotted minim, flats, graphic notation, in-time, in-tune, key, key signature, loop, lyrics, minim, motif, notation, ostinato, pitch, quavers, repeating patterns, repetition, rhythm, rhythmic notation, riff, semibreve, sharps, tempo, transpose, tuned instrument, vocal warm-ups	Latin music, Salsa, clave, cowbell, shaker, güiro, Son Cubano, Rumba, Cha-cha-cha, Samba, Tango, pitch, scale, notation, compose, melody, rhythm, perform, evaluate
Year 5	accuracy, backing track, balance, composition, control, crotchet, dotted minim, ensemble, expression, features, fluency, lyrics, minim, minor key, notation, parts, pitch, pitch notation, quaver, repeating, rhythm, semibreve, sheet music, staff notation, stave, structure, tempo, tune, tuned percussion, unison, vocal warm-ups, improvisation, accompaniment, melody, rest, evaluate	a cappella, break, call and response, chords, chord progression, diction, djembe, duo, dynamics, movement eight-beat break, ensemble, expression, improvisation, major chord, master drummer, metronome, performance, polyrhythms, pronunciation, pulse, ostinato, rests, rhythm, soloist, syncopation, tempo, tuned percussion, unaccompanied, vocals	dynamics, graphic score, inspiration, layering, mood, pitch, represent, soundtrack, synaesthesia, tempo, texture, timbre, visual representation, vocal sounds	Gamelan, ensemble, slendro scale, cyclical structure, octave, pitch, compose, notate, timbre, perform
Year 6	bar, beats, chant, crotchet, crotchet rest, inter-related dimensions of music, Kodály, minim, music critic, notate, pulse, quaver, rhythm, rhythmic canon, rhythmic elements, rhythmic notation, rhythmic patterns, SH, syllable, Ta, TiTi, TWO unison, practise	classical, characterise, composition, conductor, depict, dynamics, ensemble, graphic score, improvisation, notation, orchestra, pitch, texture	allegro, arrangement, backing track, chorus, chord progression, compose, crescendo, diminuendo, dynamics, evaluate, forte, largo, lyrics, melody, mood, musical features, notation, piano, poetic structure, repetitive, rhyme, ritardando, tempo, sequence, stave notation, structure, upbeat, verse	Minimalism, ostinato, layered textures, interlocking phrases, simple harmonies, Minimalist, melody, EDM (electronic dance music), synthesiser, performance, conductor, in time