Music Progression of Knowledge - based on the National Curriculum and Model Music Curriculum

Music Progression

This plan outlines a progressive approach to music education across EYFS and Years 1-6, following the key aims of the National Curriculum for England. It focuses on the core strands of Listening & Appraising, Musicianship, Singing, Instruments & Performing, and Composing & Improvising, emphasising a well-rounded musical experience.

These core strands are interwoven with the development of understanding in the following interrelated dimensions of music: Dynamics, Rhythm, Pitch, Tempo, Timbre, Texture, Structure and Music Notation.

| | | | EYFS | | |
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| Tiny Steps | | Nursery | | Reception | |
| Singing - To chant and sing a range of songs and rhymes with enjoyment. Listening & Appraising - To be exposed to a range of music and be led by the teacher to respond to it through copying gestures. Performing - To be able to perform a song as a group, starting and finishing together. Musicianship: To be able to copy a pulse action led by a teacher when listening to music. Composition and Improvisation: To be able to make a sound with an untuned percussion instrument holding it correctly. | | | Singing - To chant and sing a range of songs and rhymes with enjoyment. To be able to use their voices in different ways and to sing higher and lower sounds. Listening & Appraising - To be exposed to a range of music and respond to it through gestures/dance movements, recognising when music becomes faster or slower. Performing - To be able to perform a song as a group, starting and finishing together with musical expression (i.e. using dynamic changes - louder and quieter). Musicianship: To be able to copy a pulse action in time with the music; To explore loud and quiet sounds. Composition and Improvisation: To be able to make a sound with two untuned percussion instruments, holding them correctly, in a group activity and be able to refine their performance through listening. | | |
| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
| | | Lis | stening & Appraising | | |
| Be aware of tempo (speed) and dynamics (volume) and respond with movement. Be aware of different instruments. Listen to and recognise the different animals in the music of Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saëns. | Be aware of tempo (speed) and dynamics (volume) including getting louder/quieter. Be aware of different instruments and name the instruments of the string family. Be able to articulate their likes/dislikes of classical/pop music. Explore the elements of music and instrumentation in the music of Carnival of the Animals by Camille | Listen to and recognise melodies/motifs and instruments used to represent different characters in the music of Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev. Listen to music from the Baroque era (including works by Bach, Handel and Vivaldi), discussing tempo (speed) and timbre (type of sound). Listen to and recognise music from pop and classical genres. | Explore structure (e.g. call & response, phrases) and texture (e.g. solo, harmony, concertos). Listen to music from the Classical era (including works by Mozart and Beethoven). Explore different keyboard instruments. Listen to music from North Africa and Southwest Asia, investigating the different percussive rhythms. | Listen to music that demonstrates dynamics (forte, piano, crescendo, diminuendo), articulation (legato, staccato), tempo (allegro, adagio, accelerando, rallentando) and timbre (types of sound). Listen to music from the Romantic era and music for the stage, including ballet and opera. Explore music from China and South East Asia, investigating the differences and similarities of Chinese and South East Asian instruments to Western instruments. | Investigate different genres of music including electronic music and music created for computer games, folk/traditional music and film music. Listen to various modern classical music including the use of 12-tone serialism and minimalism. Explore Early Music and Early instruments, including plainchant and the influence of the church. |

| Vocabulary Tempo, instruments, composer Year 1 Perform a solo 4-beat rhythm with body percussion. Recognise and use four untuned percussion instruments to perform with musical expression. Perform a range of songs together for the KS1 nativity. Perform a steady beat, starting and stopping together. | Saint-Saëns, e.g. slow tempo in <i>Tortoises</i> /low sounds in <i>The Elephant</i> . Vocabulary Dynamics, the string family, pop Year 2 Perform simple repeated rhythmic patterns to accompany a song or a piece of music. Make and control contrasting sounds (e.g. long/short, high/low, fast/slow, loud/quiet). Perform a range of songs for the KS1 nativity together and as part of a small group. Follow instructions on how and when to sing/play. Learn to play the ocarina and use it to play a variety of tunes. | Vocabulary Timbre, the woodwind family, the Baroque era Year 3 Learn how to hold and blow the recorder correctly. Learn to play the notes B, A, G and E on the recorder and use these notes to perform a variety of tunes. Perform in a concert as a whole class on recorders, demonstrating good discipline and posture. Perform songs together at the Christmas service, respecting the sense of occasion. | Vocabulary Concerto, the Classical era, keyboard Year 4 Performing Learn how to hold and play the ukulele correctly. Learn to use different techniques such as the thumb brush strum, fingerpicking and shuffling. Learn to play the chords of C, Am, F, C7 and G7 and use these chords to play a variety of songs. Perform in a concert as a whole class on ukuleles, using big gestures to communicate with the audience. Perform songs together at the Christmas service, respecting the sense of occasion. | Vocabulary Ballet, the Romantic era, articulation Year 5 Learn to play string instruments (violin/viola/cello) together, demonstrating how to hold them and play them correctly. Learn to play the notes of the G major scale on string instruments (violin/viola/cello) and use these notes to play a variety of tunes. Perform in a concert as a whole class on string instruments (violin/viola/cello), listening carefully to make sure they produce a smooth and clear sound. Play tunes in 2 parts. Perform songs together, as a whole class or in small groups for the Christmas service. | Vocabulary Electronic music, serialism, plainchant Year 6 Learn to play tunes on tuned percussion and perform together using several layers of texture. Be able to assess the quality of their own and others' performances and look at ways of improving them. Play tunes in 2, 3 or 4 parts. Perform in the Year 6 production, singing in chorus items expressively, with good diction and following cues. Perform songs together, as a whole class, in small groups or as a solo for the Christmas service. | |
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| Vocabulary Untuned percussion, performance | Vocabulary Leader, ocarina, posture | Vocabulary Recorder, fingering, discipline | Vocabulary Ukulele, fingerpicking, chord, strum | Vocabulary Strings, bow, pizzicato, scale | Vocabulary Tuned percussion, harmony, solo | |
| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | |
| | Singing | | | | | |
| Sing from a starting pitch/chant a variety of short songs/rhymes together. Sing songs that use the <i>so-mi</i> interval (high and low). Explore call and response songs. Use their voices in a variety of ways, including the inner voice. | Sing from a starting pitch/chant a variety of short songs/rhymes together, and include dynamics and tempo. Sing songs that use the <i>so-mi</i> interval (high and low) and learn the singing name and hand signs of <i>so-mi</i> (high and low). | Introduce <i>la</i> (a note higher than <i>so</i>) and use <i>la-so-mi</i> singing names and hand signs (high, middle, low). Sing songs using a range of up to 5 notes, in a group and individually (solo). Be able to sing from a given starting pitch. Follow musical instructions | Sing songs that incorporate <i>mi-re-do</i> , the first 3 notes of a scale and use hand signs to show the pitch. Sing songs within a range of an octave and with more complex rhythms. Use an ostinato to accompany a song. Sing a round together as a class and in small groups. | Sing the notes of the <i>do</i> pentatonic scale (<i>do-re-mi-so-la</i>). Sing songs that use the <i>do</i> pentatonic scale. Use an ostinato or mixed rhythms to accompany a song. Sing partner songs as a class retaining your own part. Sing songs in 2 or 3 parts. | Introduce the notes fa, ti and high do and learn the accompanying hand signs. Be able to sing a major scale using singing names and their hand signs (do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-high do). Sing songs beyond the range of an octave with accurate intonation and good diction. Sing songs in 2, 3 or 4 parts. | |

| Vocabulary Singing voice, speaking voice, thinking voice Year 1 | Vocabulary Pitch, high, low Year 2 | including specific terms such as dynamics (forte, piano) and tempo (fast, slow). Vocabulary Starting pitch, solo, unison Year 3 | Vocabulary Ostinato, a round Year 4 | Vocabulary Pentatonic, partner song Year 5 | Vocabulary Major scale, harmony, diction Year 6 | | |
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| | | | Musicianship | | | | |
| Identify changes in pitch using high and low body actions. Understand the word <i>pulse</i> and maintain a steady beat patting knees. Discuss the different types of sounds (timbre) made by percussion instruments. Learn to read a symbol from left to right. | Identify changes in pitch using correct vocabulary (so-mi - high, low) and illustrate with hand signs. Recognise ta and te te, one and two sounds in one beat (crotchets and quavers) and begin to read stick notation. Clap and maintain a steady beat to accompany a song and include tempo changes. Understand the difference between pulse and rhythm. | Introduce the crotchet rest and understand that it is no sound in one beat and is represented in stick notation by <i>Z</i> . Learn the note names of B, A and G for recorder playing. Identify changes in pitch (<i>la-so-mi</i> , high-middle-low) and show the differences with hand signs. Learn to read a graphic score. | Explore music that uses <i>ta-a</i> (minim), one sound in two beats. Read stick notation incorporating <i>ta</i> (crotchet), <i>te te</i> (quavers), <i>Z</i> (crotchet rest) and <i>ta-a</i> (minim). Read and write high and low notes (<i>so-mi</i>) on a 1-line stave. Use the notes C, D and E on tuned percussion to demonstrate <i>do-re-mi</i> , the first 3 notes of a scale. | Introduce ti ri ti ri (semiquavers), four sounds in one beat. Read and write stick notation incorporating ta (crotchet), te te (quavers), Z (crotchet rest), ta-a (minim) and ti ri ti ri (semiquavers). Understand and play the pentatonic scale, using the notes D, E, F#, A and B on string instruments. Read and write notes, using singing names, on a 2-line and 3-line stave. | Investigate music in 2-time, 3-time and 4- time. Introduce ta-a-a-a (semibreve), one sound in four beats. Read and write stick notation incorporating ta (crotchet), te te (quavers), Z (crotchet rest), ta-a (minim), ti ri ti ri (semiquavers) and ta-a-a-a (semibreves). Begin to understand the notes on a 5-line stave, using note names. Use Songmaker on Chrome Music Lab to experiment with the major scale starting on C. | | |
| Vocabulary Pulse, high, low | Vocabulary Rhythm, steady beat, pitch | Vocabulary Graphic score, silence | Vocabulary Stick notation, 1-line stave | Vocabulary Pentatonic scale, pitch notation | Vocabulary Quadruple metre, 5-line stave, major scale | | |
| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | | |
| | Composing and Improvising | | | | | | |
| Improvise words or noises to a song or story. Use sounds to represent a picture or an emotion. Improvise sounds using 'question and answer' phrases. Lead others with sounds and actions. | Create a musical pattern using ta and te te (crotchet and quavers). Use sounds to create an effect. Choose and order sounds into a beginning, middle and end. Create a tune using notes on the ocarina. | Write a graphic score. Compose a piece using sounds and silence. Create a melody using notes on the recorder. Improvise on the recorder using the notes B, A and G. Introduce Chrome Lab and experiment with each app. | Record a rhythm they have composed using stick notation. Record high and low notes on a 1-line stave. Create a pattern on Chrome Lab Songmaker to demonstrate high and low sounds. Use texture to create an effect. Create a song using the chords of <i>C</i> , | Compose a melody on Chrome Lab Songmaker, using the pentatonic scale. Compose music that combines layers of sound and show awareness of this effect. Improvise on string instruments using open strings. Create an ostinato to accompany a song. | Use music technology to compose and record a piece of music incorporating melody and percussive sounds. Investigate the 12-bar blues and use it to create a song. Improvise using notes of the C major scale on tuned percussion. | | |

| | | | Am and F on the ukulele. | | |
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| Vocabulary Leader, question and answer | Vocabulary Musical pattern, choose, sound effects | Vocabulary Melody, graphic score, improvise | Vocabulary Record, texture, musical pattern | Vocabulary Melody, ostinato | Vocabulary Music technology, jingle, 12-bar blues. |