

Progression of language in Music




Indicative Musical Features

These key terms are the foundations of the music curriculum and should be taught and embedded throughout Key Stage One and Two. These are highlighted in bold and are shown in every year group.

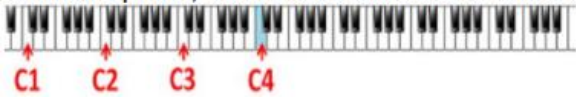
- **Pulse** – the regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
- **Rhythm** – long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
- **Pitch** – high and low sounds.
- **Tempo** – the speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
- **Melody** - A melodic tune which is accompanied by another line of music.
- **Dynamics** – how loud or quiet the music is.
- **Structure** – every piece of music has a structure e.g. an introduction, verse and chorus ending.
- **Metre** - The different groupings of beats, most commonly occurring in 2, 3 and 4 time.
- **Texture** – layers of sound. Layers of sound working together make music very interesting to listen to.
- **Notation** – the link between sound and symbol.
- **Timbre** – all instruments, including voices, have a certain sound quality e.g. the trumpet has a very different sound quality to the violin.
- **Harmony** - A musical effect created by combining two or more notes played or sung simultaneously.





	<i>Word</i>	<i>Definition</i>
EYFS	pulse	The regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
	pitch	High and low sounds.
	tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
	instruments	An object that can be used to produce music
	perform	Present to an audience.
	audience	A group of spectators or listeners
	<i>Word</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Year One	pulse	The regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
	rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
	pitch	High and low sounds.
	tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
	melody	A group of notes of various pitches (how high or low a note sounds) which are played one after another. Together they make a tune in the same way that a group of words make a sentence.
	chants	Texts spoken rhythmically, not sung.
	pentatonic scale	A scale with five notes, e.g. CDE(F)GA (B), very common in folk music.
	call and response	Two distinct phrases, where the second phrase is heard as a direct response to the first.
	question and answer	Two distinct phrases usually written in different parts of the music, but which operate like a conversation, with the second phrase answering the first.
	sequences	The order or arrangements of phrases to form a longer piece.
	body percussion	Sounds produced using fingers, hands and feet plus mouthed effects, e.g. cheek pops, tongue clicks, clapping, and a wide range of vocal sounds.
	ostinato/ostinati	A musical phrase or rhythm which is repeated.
	tuned instruments	Percussion and orchestral instruments that can produce different notes e.g. xylophone, chime bars, glockenspiel, hand bells; violin, trumpet, flute, cello, piano, etc.
	classroom percussion	Untuned and tuned percussion instruments specifically designed for use in the classroom (e.g. boomwhackers).clef

	genre	Music that shares a certain style or particular tradition is said to belong to a genre, e.g. 'Avant-garde' or 'Gospel Blues'.
	Classical period	Music written between c.1750 and c.1830. Periods and eras of music overlap and are not always distinct.
	Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti, Do (Solfege)	Many people would use Solfege before introducing written notation. Syllables are assigned to the notes of the scale, often used in sight-singing. Solfege can be used with hand signals to distinguish pitch visually. It can be used to learn to mentally hear the pitches of music before playing or singing them.
	improvise	A creative 'in the moment' activity composition.
	compose	Write and compose own music.
	Imagination	Creating new ideas
	<i>Word</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Year Two	pulse	The regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
	rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
	pitch	High and low sounds.
	tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
	melody	A group of notes of various pitches (how high or low a note sounds) which are played one after another. Together they make a tune in the same way that a group of words make a sentence.
	dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is. Volume: very soft (<i>pianissimo</i>) (<i>pp</i>) soft (<i>piano</i>) (<i>p</i>) moderately soft (<i>mezzo-piano</i>) (<i>mp</i>) moderately loud (<i>mezzo-forte</i>) (<i>mf</i>) loud (<i>forte</i>) (<i>f</i>) very loud (<i>fortissimo</i>) (<i>ff</i>)
	improvise	A creative 'in the moment' activity composition.
	untuned instruments	Percussion that makes a unpitched sound when hit, shaken or scraped, e.g. woodblock, maracas, guiro, cymbal, drum.
	graphic notation, symbols and scores	Images or a mark that can signify a particular musical action.
	dot notation	Visual symbols used to represent musical notes and chords.

	stick notation	A method of teaching music-reading that uses the sticks of the notes without the circular heads of the notes.
	beat groupings	Collecting beats into recognised groups within the bar.
	crochet	A note worth one beat, represented by a solid dot with a stem.
	crochet rest	A moment of silence in music. Rests can last for different lengths of time; 1 beat (crochet ) rest
	quaver	A note worth half a beat (half a crotchet), represented by a solid dot, a stem and a tail.
	cuckoo interval	A pitch pattern of two notes found in many Early Years and KS1 songs, sounding exactly like a 'cuc-koo' call. (Also described as So-Mi interval in Solfege).
	melodic phrase	A musical 'sentence' that makes sense played or sung on its own.
	interval	The pitch difference between two notes.
	Renaissance period	Music written between c.1400 and c.1600. Periods and eras of music overlap and are not always distinct.
	Romantic period	Music written between c.1830 and c.1900. Periods and eras of music overlap and are not always distinct.
	<i>Crescendo</i>	Gradually getting louder. 
<i>Decrescendo</i>	Gradually getting quieter 	
pause	The note or rest that the pause is assigned to should be prolonged.	
	<i>Word</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Year Three	pulse	The regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
	rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
	pitch	High and low sounds.
	tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
	melody	A group of notes of various pitches (how high or low a note sounds) which are played one after another. Together they make a tune in the same way that a group of words make a sentence.
	dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.


	<p>Volume:</p> <p>very soft (<i>pianissimo</i>) (<i>pp</i>)</p> <p>soft (<i>piano</i>) (<i>p</i>)</p> <p>moderately soft (<i>mezzo-piano</i>) (<i>mp</i>)</p> <p>moderately loud (<i>mezzo-forte</i>) (<i>mf</i>)</p> <p>loud (<i>forte</i>) (<i>f</i>)</p> <p>very loud (<i>fortissimo</i>) (<i>ff</i>)</p>
structure	Every piece of music has a structure e.g an introduction, verse and chorus and endings
metre	The different groupings of beats, most commonly occurring in 2, 3 and 4 time.
improvise	A creative 'in the moment' activity composition.
downbeats	The accented first beat of a group of notes in any metre, e.g. in 1 2 3 1 2 3 .
paired quaver	A quaver is a note value that is worth half a beat. Paired quavers are 2 quavers next door to each other, with a horizontal line joining the two note stems together.
minims	A note worth two beats, represented by a hollow dot with a stem.
allegro	At a brisk speed
adagio	At a slow speed
unison	Playing or singing the same notes together, at the same pitch.
percussion family	The instrument family that consists of untuned (e.g. snare drum) and tuned (e.g. xylophone) percussion instruments, i.e. instruments that make a sound or note when struck with a mallet, beater or stick.
echo-playing	Repeating a given phrase.
note values	<p>A semibreve is worth 4 beats ◦</p> <p>A minim is worth 2 beats ♩</p> <p>A crotchet is worth 1 beat ♪</p> <p>A quaver is worth half a beat ♫</p> <p>A semiquaver is worth a quarter of a beat ♬</p> <p>1 semibreve = 2 minims = 4 crotchets = 8 quavers = 16 semiquavers</p>
staff notation	Note values are placed on a set of five lines, or in the four spaces within the lines, to denote their

		pitch. The lines (and spaces) are called a staff or staff. The higher the position of the note on the staff, the higher its pitch.
	Middle C	The note C in the middle of the keyboard. If a keyboard has 88 keys, like a standard piano, this is where Middle C is found, i.e. C4. 
	forte	Loud
	piano	Quiet
	drone	A sustained sound, which could be a single note or a chord.
	layered (texture)	A piece of music with more than one contrasting part, 'layering' the music.
	melodic phrase	A musical 'sentence' that makes sense played or sung on its own.
	stave	A set of five horizontal lines and four spaces.
	Baroque period	Music written between c.1600 and c.1750. Periods and eras of music overlap and are not always distinct.
	<i>Word</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Year Four	pulse	The regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
	rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
	pitch	High and low sounds.
	tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
	melody	A group of notes of various pitches (how high or low a note sounds) which are played one after another. Together they make a tune in the same way that a group of words make a sentence.
	dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is. Volume: very soft (<i>pianissimo</i>) (<i>pp</i>) soft (<i>piano</i>) (<i>p</i>) moderately soft (<i>mezzo-piano</i>) (<i>mp</i>) moderately loud (<i>mezzo-forte</i>) (<i>mf</i>) loud (<i>forte</i>) (<i>f</i>) very loud (<i>fortissimo</i>) (<i>ff</i>)
	structure	Every piece of music has a structure e.g an introduction, verse and chorus and endings

metre	The different groupings of beats, most commonly occurring in 2, 3 and 4 time.
texture	Layers of sound. Layers of sound working together make music very interesting to listen to.
notation	Visual record of musical sound – in notes. The link between sound and symbol.
rests	A moment of silence in music. Rests can last for different lengths of time; 4 beat (semibreve) rest  2 beat (minim) rest  1 beat (crotchet) rest  half a beat (quaver) rest 
<i>accelerando</i>	Gradually growing faster
<i>rallentando</i>	Gradually growing slower.
octave	The musical alphabet is A-B-C-D-E-F-G, which then repeats. For example, A to the next A is a distance of 8 notes (Oct = 8) therefore an octave is the range between an A and the next A.
rounds	A song in which singers perform the same melody but at staggered starting points, producing overlapping harmony. Rounds are most commonly performed in 2, 3 or 4 parts.
partner songs	Songs with two (or more) complete melodies that can be sung separately but go together because they are the same length and follow the same harmony (e.g. She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain, and When the Saints).
Time signature	two numbers sit on top of each other next to the clef (see below) and specify how many beats are contained in each musical bar, and which note value is equivalent to a musical beat.
staccato	Short and spiky, the opposite of Legato.
legato	smooth
major and minor	A simple major scale can be played using all the white notes on the piano starting and ending on C, and minor scale from A to A. An example major chord is C-E-G, and minor A-C-E. Often music in major keys or using major scales is referred to as happy with minor meaning sad.
melody and accompaniment	A melodic tune which is accompanied by another line of music.
duet	A piece played or sung by two performers.
static and moving parts	A static part of music might be a drone or a repeated pattern. A moving part might be a long phrase that changes more frequently than the accompaniment. It's another way of describing Melody and Accompaniment.
score	A written document of a piece of music using notation.

	solo	A section of music, of any length, played or sung by one performer alone.
	clef	A symbol found at the beginning of a line of music to show how high or low the notes are.
	bars	A segment of time corresponding to a specific number of beats.
	ensemble	i) A group of players of any size and instrumental mix. ii) 'A sense of ensemble' describes a musical performance in which players keep together rhythmically and maintain a balance between parts.
	harmony	A musical effect created by combining two or more notes played or sung simultaneously.
	<i>Word</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Year Five	pulse	The regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
	rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
	pitch	High and low sounds.
	tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
	melody	A group of notes of various pitches (how high or low a note sounds) which are played one after another. Together they make a tune in the same way that a group of words make a sentence.
	dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is. Volume: very soft (<i>pianissimo</i>) (<i>pp</i>) soft (<i>piano</i>) (<i>p</i>) moderately soft (<i>mezzo-piano</i>) (<i>mp</i>) moderately loud (<i>mezzo-forte</i>) (<i>mf</i>) loud (<i>forte</i>) (<i>f</i>) very loud (<i>fortissimo</i>) (<i>ff</i>)
	structure	Every piece of music has a structure e.g an introduction, verse and chorus and endings
	metre	The different groupings of beats, most commonly occurring in 2, 3 and 4 time.
	+	
	texture	Layers of sound. Layers of sound working together make music very interesting to listen to.
	notation	Visual record of musical sound – in notes. The link between sound and symbol.
	timbre	The character or quality of a musical sound or voice as distinct from its pitch and intensity.
	semibreves	A note worth four beats represented as a hollow oval with no stem attached. ○
semiquaver	A note worth a quarter of a beat. A single semiquaver note has two "tails" on its note stem. If several semiquavers are written in succession, the tails join up to form double lines above the note.	

	two/three/four part song	A song written for two, three or four soloists or groups of singers, with melodies that complement each other harmonically. Part songs are often notated with multiple staves.
	verse and chorus form	Music composed in a set pattern of sections, often Verse-Chorus-Verse Chorus-Bridge- Chorus or similar. Used in most Pop songs.
	arrangement	A reworking of a piece of music so that it can be played by a different instrument or combination of instruments from the original.
	triad	A three-note chord, often built on the tonic, or 'home' note – the lowest of the three in pitch – and played together with the third and fifth note above it. A C major triad would contain the notes C, E and G.
	ternary form	Music composed in three sections, often referred to as 'sandwich' music, illustrating that the outer sections are the same with a contrasting middle section: e.g. Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Ternary form is often represented as ABA.
	playing by ear	The skill of 'picking out' a phrase or melody on a pitched instrument without the support of written music: this skill may require dedicated practice.
	scale	A sequence of eight adjacent notes which together span an octave.
	groove	Persistent repeated units, giving a feel of swing or togetherness.
	orchestra	An ensemble of instruments, usually combining string, woodwind, brass and percussion.
	<i>Word</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Year Six	pulse	The regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
	rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
	pitch	High and low sounds.
	tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
	melody	A group of notes of various pitches (how high or low a note sounds) which are played one after another. Together they make a tune in the same way that a group of words make a sentence.
	dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is. Volume: very soft (<i>pianissimo</i>) (<i>pp</i>) soft (<i>piano</i>) (<i>p</i>) moderately soft (<i>mezzo-piano</i>) (<i>mp</i>) moderately loud (<i>mezzo-forte</i>) (<i>mf</i>) loud (<i>forte</i>) (<i>f</i>) very loud (<i>fortissimo</i>) (<i>ff</i>)
	structure	Every piece of music has a structure e.g an introduction, verse and chorus and endings

metre	The different groupings of beats, most commonly occurring in 2, 3 and 4 time.
texture	In music, texture is how the tempo, melodic, and harmonic materials are combined in a composition, thus determining the overall quality of the sound in a piece.
notation	Visual record of musical sound – in notes. The link between sound and symbol.
timbre	The character or quality of a musical sound or voice as distinct from its pitch and intensity.
harmony	The combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce a pleasing effect.
chord	Two or more notes played together to achieve harmony.
syncopation	Playing on the off-beat
chord progressions	A succession of chords, one after another.
Compound time	Music that is written in a metre of 2 but where each beat is subdivided into 3 quavers, providing a bouncy, skipping, jig-like rhythm, for example in Row, Row, Row your Boat. (e.g. 6/8)
diatonic scale	A scale which is traditional in European classical music (e.g. C-D-E-F-G-AB).
Phrasing	Connecting or grouping several notes or rhythms to create a sequence of sounds that make sense musically and satisfy both performer and listener. Phrasing in a song indicates where the singer should breathe.
Treble clef	 This sign is placed on the staff at the start of a piece of music. It lets the performer know that the note values on the lines and in the spaces 60 can be played by instruments such as violin, flute, clarinet, recorder, oboe, trumpet, piano (right hand), and soprano and alto singers.
tremolo	On string instruments, rapidly moving the bow back and forth; a roll on a percussion instrument; or two notes or chords played rapidly on a piano or marimba.
vocal balance	Maintaining appropriately even dynamics and accurate pitching between groups of singers when performing.