

Our Music Curriculum

A Parent's guide

Parent's Guide to Our Music Curriculum

Music plays an important role in developing children's confidence, creativity and imagination. Our Music curriculum gives children regular opportunities to listen to, perform, compose and enjoy music from a wide range of genres, cultures and historical periods. Through active music-making, children develop their musical skills, knowledge of musical elements, and the joy of working together as musicians.

Children learn across key musical areas, including:

Performing

Singing with control, expression and confidence; playing tuned and untuned instruments; performing in solo and group ensembles.

Listening & Appraising

Listening to music from different times, traditions and cultures; discussing instruments, tempo, dynamics and musical features.

Composing & Improvising

Creating and developing musical ideas using voice, instruments and digital tools; experimenting with rhythm, pitch, tempo and dynamics.

Musical Skills & Notation

Learning musical vocabulary, reading and writing simple notation and understanding key musical elements such as rhythm, pulse, pitch, structure and timbre.

What Your Child Will Learn – Year by Year

What Children Learn

Nursery:

Explore sound, pitch, tempo and dynamics using voices, instruments and everyday objects. Sing simple action songs, move to music, and copy simple rhythms.

Reception:

Sing with growing confidence; explore beat and rhythm; recognise and copy patterns in music; experiment with tuned and untuned instruments; perform to others.

What Children Learn

Year 1:

Keep a steady pulse, copy and create rhythms, use musical symbols, listen for instruments and changes in music. Sing in unison and perform simple pieces.

Year 2: Sing with clearer diction and control; develop rhythmic patterns; create short compositions; use simple notation; recognise instruments and changes in dynamics and tempo.

Year 3: Begin to read and write formal notation; improvise and compose using a range of instruments; sing with accuracy; listen to music from different cultures and historical periods.

Year 4: Perform in parts; use notation more confidently; develop composition skills with structure; analyse musical elements in recordings; play tuned instruments with control.

Year 5: Perform with accuracy, expression and increased technical control; compose with layers, texture and structure; read notation fluently; evaluate music using key vocabulary.

Year 6: Refine performance skills including part-singing; compose for a purpose using notation and digital tools; analyse music across genres and cultures; perform with confidence to an audience.



How Parents Can Support Music at Home

You don't need to be a musician to support your child — small musical experiences make a big difference!



Daily Musical Moments

- Sing together in the car, at bedtime or during routines
- Clap or tap along to the beat of songs
- Listen to a variety of music — pop, classical, jazz, folk, world music
- Discuss what you notice: fast/slow? loud/soft? instruments?



For Younger Children (Nursery–Y2)

- Play call-and-response clapping or tapping games
- Use household objects as instruments (pots, spoons, rice shakers)
- Make up silly songs or change the words to familiar tunes
- Dance to music and explore moving in different ways



For Older Children (Y3–Y6)

- Encourage learning an instrument or joining choir/music groups
- Use free music apps (e.g., Chrome Music Lab, GarageBand,)
- Explore music from different decades or countries and compare styles
- Attend live music events — school concerts, local choirs, bands, music festivals

