

Music Year 7 Curriculum Overview



Year 7 Overview

In year 7 students will focus on building a universal foundation of musical understanding through performing, composing, listening, and appreciation. Students will engage with music practically and theoretically, developing a range of musical skills, knowledge, and techniques. This will engage and inspire students to develop a love of music from a range of culture and traditions, as well as their own musical skills.

Over the course of year 7, students will be taught the following knowledge and skills to prepare for their next learning stage:

Icons of Music – Elvis and The Beatles

Pupils will study icons of pop/rock/rock n roll by examining the lives, history and music of Elvis Presley and the Beatles. This will be split across the term – 50% Elvis and 50% the Beatles. Students will explore the era(s) that those particular musicians were in, so that they can understand the impact of the music at the time. Each student will create a fact file on their given 'icons'. This topic will be assessed by the students choosing one of the icons they have studied and playing one of their songs, whilst also presenting their fact file on their chosen icon.

Keyboard – The Basics

Students will learn the basics of keyboard playing, they will explore the musical elements (Tempo, Pitch, Duration, etc) using the keyboard to apply their knowledge. Students will be shown how to label the keyboard notes correctly, enabling a better knowledge of the keyboard. Students will be taught how to read sheet music by studying and then creating their own musical staves. This will culminate in a series of keyboard warm-ups performed as an assessment. Each warm up will showcase a different area of the students knowledge; such as finger placement and why it is important to warm up.

Keyboard – Pop Songs

Applying their knowledge from the previous term, students will take a more advanced look into the keyboard, how to play it and various songs to be played. We will introduce the students to pop songs to show the basic structure of the songs (Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus). They will be introduced to the importance of a melody, both creating their own and playing along to a well-known song. For assessment, students will be applying their keyboard knowledge and playing along to a well-known pop song, focusing on correct technique and their interpretation of the provided sheet music.

Rhythm and The Boomwhacker

In this topic, students will explore rhythm in music, focusing on percussion instruments. We will introduce the concept of playing a melody, introducing different chords and techniques. To support this, students will be using the Boomwhacker – they will learn more about the instrument, its roots, how to play it and how to apply knowledge on rhythm and timing into a practical assessment play along of a song using sheet music.

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History of Music

Students will study the history of music. They will be taken on a journey to understand where music started and how it has developed through time. They will study classical music then explore Blues and Rock 'n' Roll, they will then go through different decades and look at different the different types of music and how they have developed. Finally, students will look at what genre is and explore different genres. Students will explore this by listening to selected music through history and commenting on the different music elements in the music and how it has changed and adapted throughout the years. Students will be assessed by creating a poster or PowerPoint that explains the history of music.

Global Music

Students will study different genres from around the world. They will study African music, Reggae, Samba and K-Pop music. Students will explore this by listening to selected music from different genres and commenting on the different music elements in the music and how each genre is unique. Students will also explore what research is and how we research effectively. Students will then chose a genre of their choice and start researching as much information as they can about their genre. Students will be assessed by creating a poster or PowerPoint that explains their chosen genre.

Week Number	Themes/ Topics	Key Knowledge & Skills	Key Assessments
Autumn 1	Icons of Music – Elvis and The Beatles	- Learn about the music of Elvis Presley - Learn about the music of The Beatles - Gain an understanding of the era's that the music came from and how the songs influenced the world around it. - Gain an understanding of the social and historical significance of the artist(s) and their music.	- Teacher observation of workshops/ practical exploration - Peer feedback - Self evaluation - Present fact files/posters

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		• An in-depth understanding of Genre and which category each icon falls into. • Listen to and break down of a well known song by each icon • Gain an understanding of what Pitch, Tempo and Dynamics is and be able to identify this in a piece of music. • Producing a fact-file or poster of each icon	
Autumn 2	Keyboard – The Basics	• Understanding the importance of the basics of notation • Labelling the keyboard correctly so that the notes are clear and in the right place. • Reading music – students will be able to read sheet music. • Using both ends of the scale on the keyboard (Lower into higher notes) • Play music on a keyboard, following sheet music.	- Listening tasks - Teacher observation of workshops. - Observation sheet - practical exploration - Performance
Spring 1	Keyboard – Pop Songs	• Understand the difference between pace, beat and rhythm. • Application of notation. • Appreciation and application of song structure • Playing the same rhythm in time with others. • Playing a different rhythm to others at the same time.	- Listening tasks - Teacher observation of workshops/ - Observation sheet - practical exploration - Performance
Spring 2	Rhythm and The Boomwhackers	– Understand what rhythm and timing are and their importance in music – Recognition of notation and its application to a rhythm – Understanding that Boomwhackers are a percussion instrument – Recognise and be able to describe the different ways to play the Boomwhackers – Play a melody using a boomwhacker – Understand Chords and how to play them on the Boomwhackers – Play as an Ensemble	– Listening tasks – Teacher observation of workshops/ – Observation sheet – practical exploration – Performance
Summer 1	History of Music	• Learn about Classical music • Learn about Blues and Rock 'n' Roll music • Learn about music through the decades. • Learn what Genre is and to be able to identify different genres. • Gain an understanding of what Pitch, Tempo and Dynamics is and be able to identify this in a piece of music. • Producing a fact-file or poster of the History through music.	– Listening tasks – Teacher observation of workshops/ – Observation sheet – Practical exploration – Presentation of Fact file.

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Summer 2	Global Music	• Learn about African music • Learn about Samba music • Learn about Reggae music. • Learn K-Pop music. • Learn how to research effectively. • Gain an understanding of what Pitch, Tempo and Dynamics is and be able to identify this in a piece of music. • Producing a fact-file or poster of a genre of our choice.	– Listening tasks – Teacher observation of workshops/ – Observation sheet – Practical exploration – Presentation of Fact file.