

Bledlow Ridge School Skills and Knowledge Progression Music



Foundation Stage MINIMUM EXPECTED STANDARDS By the end of the Reception Year most pupils should be able to:

PERFORM (Singing / Playing) Active learning	EXPLORE and COMPOSE Playing and exploring	LISTEN, REFLECT and APPRAISE Creating and thinking critically
 Using their voices: Speak and chant short phases together Find their singing voice and begin to develop an awareness of pitch over a small range of notes Make changes in their voices to express different moods /feelings Co-ordinate actions to go with a song Sing short phrases or responses on their own Sing a variety of songs both accompanied and 	 Exploring: Different sounds made by the voice, hands, found objects and conventional instruments (timbre) High and low sounds (pitch) Long and short sounds (duration) Loud and quiet sounds (dynamics) Fast and slow sounds (tempo) Begin to be aware of the effect that different sounds have to convey mood or meaning 	 Listening: Listen to sounds and respond by talking about them or physically with movement and dance Recognise the sounds of the percussion instruments used in the classroom and identify and name them Respond appropriately to a range of classroom songs, e.g. tidy up songs, circle time songs, line up songs. Appraising:
 Using Classroom Instruments: Play instruments by shaking, scraping, rattling, tapping etc Start and stop together 	 Composing: Begin to create and manipulate different effects on a sound source or instrument Add chosen sound effects at an appropriate moment in a story or song 	 Begin to identify and describe key features or extreme contrasts within a piece of music Begin to use musical terms (louder/quieter, faster/slower, higher/lower)
 Begin to develop a sense of beat, using instruments or body sounds Respond to symbols or hand signs Play loudly, quietly, fast, slow Copy a simple rhythm pattern or number of beats played on an instrument. Play along to music showing a developing awareness of the beat Play with a sense of purpose and enjoyment. 	 Sort and name different sounds Create a sequence of different sounds in response to a given stimuli KEY WORDS FOUND OBJECTS Pots and pans, material, paper or anything that can be manipulated to create sound 	MUSICAL ELEMENTSDURATIONSteady beat, short and long soundsPITCHHigh and lowTEMPOFast and slowDYNAMICSLoud and quietTIMBREThe tone quality of the sound – rough, smooth, scratch, etc

SINGING VOICE The musical quality of the voice, unlike the speaking voice uses tonality or pitch and rhythm	STRUCTURE Phrases of a song, overall plan of a piece
STEADY BEAT Regular pulse (in time)	

YEAR 1 MINIMUM EXPECTED STANDARDS By the end of Year 1 most pupils should be able to:

PERFORM (Singing / Playing)	EXPLORE and COMPOSE	LISTEN, REFLECT and APPRAISE
Using their voices:	Exploring:	Listening:
 Speak and chant together 	• Different sounds made by the voice and hands	• Listen to a piece of music and move in time to its
• Sing songs showing increasing vocal control (singing	(timbre)	steady beat.
more in tune, breathing deeply, singing words clearly)	• High and low sounds (pitch)	• Recognise and respond through movement /dance to
 Sing songs in different styles conveying different 	 Long and short sounds (duration) 	the different musical characteristics and moods of music
moods (happy, sad, angry etc) and with sense of enjoyment	• Loud and quiet sounds (dynamics)	• Recognise the sounds of the percussion instruments
 Co-ordinate actions to go with a song 	• Fast and slow sounds (tempo)	used in the classroom and identify and name them
 Sing in time to a steady beat 	• Pitch shapes (moving up and down) and rhythmic	
 Perform an action or a sound (clapping, stamping, 	patterns	Appraising:
etc) on the steady beat whilst singing		
	Composing:	 Begin to use musical terms (louder/quieter,
Using Classroom Instruments:	 Add sound effects to a story 	faster/slower, higher/lower)
 Play instruments by shaking, scraping, rattling, 	• Choose musical sound effects to follow a story line or	
tapping etc	match a picture	• Begin to articulate how changes in speed, pitch and
 Play in time to a steady beat, using instruments or 	 Use graphics/symbols to portray the sounds they 	dynamics effect the mood
body sounds	have made made	
 Play loudly, quietly, fast, slow 	• Sequence these symbols to make a simple structure	
 Imitate a rhythm pattern on an instrument 	(score)	
 Play a repeated rhythmic pattern (rhythmic 	• Compose own sequence of sounds without help and	
ostinato) to accompany a song	perform.	

 Play with help the rhythmic pattern of a spoken sentence, e.g. 'Hungry caterpillar' Follow simple hand signals indicating: loud/quiet and start/stop 	

YEAR 2 MINIMUM EXPECTED STANDARDS By the end of Year 2 most pupils should be able to:

PERFORM (Singing/Playing)	EXPLORE and COMPOSE	LISTEN, REFLECT and APPRAISE
Using their voices: Sing a variety of songs with more accuracy of pitch Sing words clearly and breathing at the end of phrases Convey the mood or meaning of the song Sing with a sense of control of dynamics(volume) and tempo (speed) Echo sing a short melodic phrases Identify if the pitch is getting higher or lower, or is staying the same and copy with their voices Follow a leader (teacher)starting and stopping together Using Instruments: Play with control: a) maintaining steady beat b) getting faster or slower	 EXPLORE and COMPOSE Explore: Ways in which sounds are made (tapped, blown, scraped, shaken), and can be changed Long and short sounds (rhythm – duration) The rhythm patterns of words and sentences Changes in pitch (higher and lower) Sequences of sound (structure) Sounds in response to a stimulus (visual or aural) How sounds can be manipulated to convey different effects and moods Compose: Short melodic phrases Short repeated rhythmic patterns (ostinati) Rhythm patterns from words A piece of music that has a beginning, middle and end (structure) Music that has long and short sounds, and/or changes in tempo, timbre and dynamics, in small groups Music that conveys different moods 	LISTEN, REFLECT and APPRAISE Listening and appraising Listen with increased concentration Recognise the sounds of the percussion instruments used, their names, how they are played and which ones can make high and low sounds Recognise how sounds are made – tapping, rattling, scraping, blowing etc Identify different qualities of sound such as smooth, scratchy, clicking, ringing (timbre) Recognise and respond to different changes of speed (tempo)/volume (dynamics) and pitch Respond through movement/dance to different musical characteristics and moods (angrily, sadly, cheerfully, daintily etc) Recognise and respond to the mood of a piece of music. Begin to use music terminology when describing how the mood is created (i.e. the mood is sad because the music is played very slowly and quietly)

• Demonstrate some confidence in performing as a	
group and as an individual	

YEAR 3 MINIMUM EXPECTED STANDARDS By the end of year 3 most pupils should be able to:

PERFORM (Singing /Playing)	EXPLORE and COMPOSE	LISTEN, REFLECT and APPRAISE
PERFORM (Singing /Playing)Using their voices:•Sing songs in a variety of styles with confidence, singing an increasing number from memory•Show increasing accuracy of pitch and awareness of the shape of a melody.•Imitate increasingly longer phrases with accuracy•With an awareness of the phrases in a song•Understand that posture, breathing and diction are important.•Demonstrate an awareness of character or style in performance.•Chant or sing a round in two parts•Sing songs with a recognised structure (verse and chorus/ call and response)Using instruments: •Keep a steady beat on an instrument in a group or individually•Maintain a rhythmic or melodic ostinato simultaneously with a different ostinato and/or steady beat•Use tuned percussion with increasing confidence • Copy a short melodic phrase by ear on a pitched instrument•Play using symbols including graphic and / or simple traditional notation•Follow simple hand directions from a leader • Perform with an awareness of others•Combine musical sounds with narrative and	 EXPLORE and COMPOSE Explore: Longer – shorter / faster - slower / higher - lower / louder - quieter sounds on tuned and untuned percussion and voices. Pitch notes moving by step (notes adjacent to each other) and by leap (notes with gaps between them) Symbols to represent sound (graphic scores / traditional notation) The sounds of different instruments - TIMBRE and how they can represent pictures/ stories/ moods The different sounds (timbres) that one instrument can make How the musical elements can be combined to compose descriptive music Compose: Words and actions to go with songs A simple rhythmic accompaniment to go with a song, using ostinato patterns Music that has a recognisable structure; Beginning, Middle and End or verse/chorus Music that tells a story, paints a picture or creates a mood 	LISTEN, REFLECT and APPRAISE Listening, reflecting and appraising: Listen with concentration to longer pieces / extracts of music Listen to live/recorded extracts of different kinds of music and identify where appropriate a steady beat / no steady beat a specific rhythm pattern or event the speed (TEMPO) of the music the volume (DYNAMICS) the melody using appropriate musical terms/language ldentify common characteristics Recognise some familiar instrumental sounds in recorded music (piano, violin, guitar drums etc) ldentify repetition in music ie a song with a chorus Recognise aurally wooden, metal, skin percussion instruments and begin to know their names Listen to their own compositions and use musical language to describe what happens in them

YEAR 4 MINIMUM EXPECTED STANDARDS By the end of Year 4 most pupils should be able to:

PERFORM (Singing/Playing)	EXPLORE and COMPOSE	LISTEN, REFLECT and APPRAISE
Using their voices:	Explore:	Listening, Reflecting and Appraising:
 Sing songs in a variety of styles with an 	 Sounds to create particular effects (timbre) 	• Recognise aurally the range of percussion (tuned and
increasing awareness of the tone of their voices and the	Rhythm patterns in music from different times and	untuned) used in school and some individual orchestral
shape of the melody	places (duration)	instruments taught in school.
 Sing songs showing musical expression 	• The pentatonic scale	• Recognise and talk about some contrasting styles of
(phrasing, changes of tempi, dynamics; reflecting the	 Pitched notes that move by steps and/ or leaps to 	music in broad terms, using appropriate musical language (the
mood and character of the song and its context)	make short phrases/melodies	tempo, dynamics, metre, texture, timbre)
• Sing confidently as part of a small group or solo	• Music that describes feelings or moods using 'tense'	• Recognise music from different times and countries
being aware of posture and good diction.	or 'calm' sounds using dynamics, different tempi, different	indentifying key elements that give it its unique sound.
• Copy short phrases and be able to sing up and	timbres etc	• Identify repeated rhythmic or melodic phrases in live
down in step independently.	• Combining and controlling sounds to achieve a	or recorded music
Using instruments:	desired effect	• Identify whether a song has a verse/chorus or call
Maintain two or more different ostinato	Music that incorporates effective silences (rests)	and response structure
patterns in a small instrumental group against a steady	• Different groupings of beats (metre of 2/3)	• Recognise the combined effect of layers of sound by
beat	Compose:	listening to their own arrangements, compositions and
Play music that includes RESTS	• A simple rhythmic accompaniment to a song using	recordings.
Use tuned percussion instruments with	ostinato patterns	
increasing confidence to accompany songs and improvise	• A simple melody from a selected group of notes (i.e.	
 Play by ear – find known phrases or short 	a pentatonic scale)	
melodies using tuned instruments	Music that has a recognisable structure	
• Read and play from some conventional music	• A piece of music that reflects images/ and	
symbols	atmosphere, that has a clearly defined plan, making subtle	
Combine instrumental playing with narrative	adjustments to achieve the intended effect	
and movement	 Arrange a song using tuned and untuned 	
• Follow a leader, stopping / starting, playing	accompaniments developed from the song and perform to a	
faster/ slower and louder / quieter.	friendly audience	
• Perform to an audience of adults, an assembly	• Use a range of ICT to sequence, compose, record and	
or other classes with increasing confidence.	share work	

YEAR 5 MINIMUM EXPECTED STANDARDS By the end of year 5 most pupils should be able to:

PERFORM(Singing/Playing)	EXPLORE and COMPOSE	LISTEN, REFLECT and APPRAISE
Using their voices:	Explore:	Listening, Reflecting and Appraising
• Sing confidently in a wide variety of styles	 Chords / harmony – concord and discord 	Distinguish differences in timbre and texture
with expression	 texture created by layering rhythmic and/or melodic 	between a wide variety of instruments and instrumentation
• Communicate the meaning and mood of the	ostinatos	 Identify and discuss 'what happens when' within
song	 Developing ideas, using musical devices such as 	simple musical structures
• Sing in a round	repetition, question and answer, ostinato.	 Recognise and identify features of expression
 Maintain own part in a round 	 Characteristics of various styles, for example, Blues, 	(phrasing, melody, harmony, different dynamics, metre and
• Perform a song from memory with attention	Rap, Gospel , Folk, African etc	tempi) in an extract of live or recorded music
to phrasing, dynamics and accuracy of pitch, for a	 Improvising in a variety of styles 	• Use musical vocabulary and knowledge to talk about
special occasion	Compose / Arrange:	and discuss music from a variety of sources, traditions and
Using instruments:	(Always considering the musical elements)	cultures, including performances of their own and others'
• Perform on a range of instruments in mixed	 Create own simple songs reflecting the meaning of 	compositions
groups to an audience, with confidence	the words	 Use musical vocabulary and knowledge to help
 Read and play with confidence from 	 Compose music that reflects given intentions, e.g. 	identify areas for development or refinement when
conventional or graphic notation	descriptive music, a rap, a melody with an ostinato	composing
 Continue to play by ear on pitched 	accompaniment	
instruments, extending the length of phrases,	 Arrange a song for class performance with an 	
melodies played.	appropriate pitched and unpitched accompaniment	
 Perform with sensitivity to different 	 Refine own compositions after discussion 	
dynamics, tempi	 Use a range of symbols (conventional or graphic) to 	
 Lead/conduct a group of instrumental 	record compositions.	
performers		
Maintain a rhythmic or melodic		
accompaniment to a song		
 Maintain own part on a pitched instrument 		
in a small ensemble		
 Perform own compositions to an audience 		
• Use an mp3 recoder/video recorder to keep		
a record of work in progress and record		
performances.		
Know what makes a good performance		

YEAR 6 MINIMUM EXPECTED STANDARDS By the end of Year 6 most pupils should be able to:

	PERFORM(Singing/Playing)	EXPLORE and COMPOSE	LISTEN, REFLECT and APPRAISE
Using	their voices:	Explore:	Listening, Reflecting and Appraising
•	Sing confidently in a wide variety of styles with	 Chords / harmony – concord and discord 	 Distinguish differences in timbre and texture
expres	sion	• Texture created by layering rhythmic and/or melodic	between a wide variety of instruments and
•	Communicate the meaning and mood of the song	ostinatos	instrumentation
•	Perform a song from memory with attention to	 Developing ideas, using musical devices such as 	 Identify and discuss 'what happens when' within
phrasi	ng, dynamics and accuracy of pitch, for a special	repetition, question and answer, ostinato.	simple musical structures
occasi	on	• Characteristics of various styles, for example, Blues,	 Recognise and identify features of expression
Using	instruments:	Rap, Gospel , Folk, African etc	(phrasing, melody, harmony, different dynamics, metre
•	Perform on a range of instruments in mixed groups	 Improvising in a variety of styles 	and tempi) in an extract of live or recorded music
to an a	audience, with confidence	Compose / Arrange:	 Use musical vocabulary and knowledge to talk
•	Read and play with confidence from conventional	(Always considering the musical elements)	about and discuss music from a variety of sources,
or gra	phic notation	• Compose music that reflects given intentions, e.g.	traditions and cultures, including performances of their
•	Continue to play by ear on pitched instruments,	descriptive music, a rap, a melody with an ostinato	own and others' compositions
extend	ling the length of phrases, melodies played.	accompaniment	Use musical vocabulary and knowledge to help
•	Perform with sensitivity to different dynamics,	• Arrange a song for class performance with an	identify areas for development or refinement when
tempi		appropriate pitched and unpitched accompaniment	composing
•	Lead/conduct a group of instrumental performers	 Refine own compositions after discussion 	
•	Maintain a rhythmic or melodic accompaniment to	• Use a range of symbols (conventional or graphic) to	
a song		record compositions.	
•	Maintain own part on a pitched instrument in a		
small e	ensemble		
•	Perform own compositions to an audience		
•	Use an video recorder to keep a record of work in		
progre	ess and record performances.		
	what makes a good performance		
	5.		