

Music in the National Curriculum 2014

Aims

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations

Subject Content

Key stage 1

Pupils should be taught to:

- use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music

Key stage 2

Pupils should be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They should develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

Pupils should be taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians

- develop an understanding of the history of music.

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

Being Imaginative and Expressive

- Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher;
- Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs;
- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music.

Enstone Primary School Curriculum Rationale for Music

At Enstone Primary School, we use the Charanga Musical School scheme to support the teaching of Music across the school. Charanga provides a carefully sequenced and progressive curriculum that ensures full coverage of the National Curriculum while enabling pupils to develop musical knowledge, practical skills and an appreciation of music from a wide range of genres, cultures and historical periods. Through engaging, high-quality lessons, pupils develop confidence as performers, composers and listeners, fostering creativity and a lifelong enjoyment of music.

Curriculum Intent

Our intent is to provide pupils with a broad, balanced and inspiring music curriculum that nurtures creativity, confidence and self-expression. Through high-quality musical experiences, pupils develop the knowledge and skills to sing, play instruments, compose, improvise and appraise music with increasing confidence and accuracy. Learning is carefully sequenced so that children build progressively on their musical understanding, developing technical skills alongside an appreciation of the cultural significance and diversity of music. We aim to inspire every child to enjoy music and recognise its value as a means of communication, creativity and personal expression.

Curriculum Implementation

Charanga provides a coherent progression of musical knowledge and skills, ensuring that learning is carefully sequenced from Reception to Year 6. Lessons are structured around the interrelated dimensions of music, including pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure and notation. Pupils regularly sing, perform, listen, compose and evaluate music, developing practical musicianship alongside critical listening skills. Teachers adapt and enrich the curriculum where appropriate, making meaningful links with whole-school events, performances, cross-curricular learning and the wider cultural life of the school. Opportunities to perform individually and collaboratively enable pupils to develop confidence, resilience and pride in their achievements.

Curriculum Impact

Through this approach, pupils develop secure musical knowledge alongside the practical skills needed to perform, compose and appraise music with confidence. They become increasingly proficient in using musical vocabulary, recognising and responding to different musical styles, and expressing their own creative ideas through performance and composition. By the end of each key stage, pupils have developed the knowledge, understanding and skills required by the National Curriculum and have gained a genuine appreciation of the richness and diversity of music, preparing them for continued musical learning and participation beyond primary school.

Long term planning cycle for Music from September 2026

Based on the **Charanga Model Music Curriculum (MMC) scheme of work**, other than Reception (use the original scheme).

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
RECEPTION	Me!	My Stories	Everyone!
YEARS 1 AND 2 CYCLE A 2026-27	Y2 Unit Playing in an Orchestra	Y2 Unit Recognising Different Sounds	Y2 Unit Our Big Concert
YEARS 1 AND 2 CYCLE B 2027-28	Y2 Unit Pulse, Rhythm and Pitch	Y2 Unit Inventing a Musical Story	Y2 Unit Exploring Improvisation
YEARS 3 AND 4 CYCLE A 2026 -27	Y4 Unit Exploring Feelings When You Play	Y4 Unit Musical Structures	Y4 Unit Expression and Improvisation
YEARS 3 AND 4 CYCLE B 2027-28	Y4 Unit Feelings Through Music	Y4 Unit Compose With Your Friends	Y4 Unit The Show Must Go On!
YEARS 5 AND 6 CYCLE A 2026-27	Y6 Unit Music and Technology	Y6 Unit Developing Ensemble Skills	Y6 Unit Creative Composition
YEARS 5 AND 6 CYCLE B 2027-28	Y6 Unit Musical Styles Connect Us	Y6 Unit Improvising with Confidence	Y6 Unit Farewell Tour