

## Progression of vocabulary in the music curriculum

Year 1	<p><b>Beat/pulse</b> Beat and pulse are used synonymously to refer to the regular heartbeat of the music – the 'steady beat'</p> <p><b>Body percussion</b> Sounds which can be made using parts of the body, eg clapping, tapping knees, etc.</p> <p><b>Conductor</b> The person elected to lead a group of singers or instrumentalists</p> <p><b>Duration</b> The word used in music to refer to the length of a sound or silence</p> <p><b>Dynamics/volume</b> The loudness of the music, usually described in terms of loud/quiet</p> <p><b>Improvise</b> To invent music as you go along</p> <p><b>Melody</b> A tune</p> <p><b>Pictorial symbols</b> A simple form of notation in which a picture is used to represent a sound, eg car picture = motor sounds</p> <p><b>Pitch</b> Refers to the complete range of sounds in a piece of music from the lowest to the highest</p> <p><b>Playing methods</b> Acoustic (non-electronic) sounds are made by shaking, scraping, tapping, or blowing a soundmaker</p> <p><b>Pulse</b> See Beat</p> <p><b>Soundmaker</b> Any sound source used as a musical instrument</p> <p><b>Soundscape</b> A picture in sound</p> <p><b>Structure</b> Most music is underpinned by a structure which may be as simple as beginning, middle and end</p> <p><b>Symbol</b> Any written representation of a sound</p> <p><b>Tempo (plural tempi)</b> The speed at which music is performed, usually described in terms of fast/slow</p> <p><b>Timbre</b> All instruments, including voices, have a particular sound quality which is referred to as timbre, eg squeaky</p> <p><b>Volume</b> See Dynamics</p>
Year 2	<p><b>Accompaniment</b> The underlying sounds used to support a melody line</p> <p><b>Call and response</b> A style of music in which a leader sings or plays a short melody (the call) and a chorus of singers/players respond with an answering short melody (the response)</p> <p><b>Canon</b> When two or more voices or instruments play the same music, starting at different times (also called a 'round')</p> <p><b>Crescendo</b> Getting louder</p> <p><b>Glissando</b></p>

	<p>A slide up or down from one musical note to another, in the manner of a rapid, sliding scale</p> <p><b>Graphic notation</b> A form of notation in which the composer freely invents symbols which give an impression of sound</p> <p><b>Graphic score</b> A score in which musical intention is recorded by means of graphic symbols</p> <p><b>Metre</b> The grouping of beats into twos, threes, fours, etc, for instance in waltz music the beats are grouped in threes, whereas in march music they are grouped in twos or fours</p> <p><b>Notations</b> Ways of writing music down – examples include <b>graphic notation</b> and <del>staff notation</del></p> <p><b>Ostinato (plural ostinatos/ostinati)</b> A short rhythmic or melodic pattern which is repeated over and over</p> <p><b>Rhythm pattern</b> A short section of rhythm</p> <p><b>Rhythm</b> Patterns of long and short sounds played within a steady beat</p> <p><b>Round</b> When two or more voices or instruments play the same music, starting at different times (also called 'canon')</p> <p><b>Scale</b> A group of notes notated or played in order of pitch</p> <p><b>Score</b> A written representation of music designed to record a composer's intention</p> <p><b>Step movement</b> Notes of a melody which move stepwise up or down</p> <p><b>Tuned percussion</b> Percussion instruments which make sounds with a defined pitch, eg glockenspiel</p> <p><b>Untuned percussion</b> Percussion instruments which make sounds of indefinite pitch, eg hand drum</p>
Year 3	<p><b>Aerophone</b> An instrument which produces sound using air vibrations, without using strings or membranes</p> <p><b>Binary</b> A two-part structure in music is described as binary form: AB. The A and B sections are musically different from each other</p> <p><b>Chordophone</b> An instrument which produces sound using strings that vibrate</p> <p><b>Coda</b> The end section of a piece of music</p> <p><b>Drone</b> A sound or sounds played constantly throughout all or part of a piece of music as an accompaniment</p> <p><b>Echo</b> When a musical phrase is repeated after itself, like an echo</p> <p><b>Idiophone</b> An instrument which produces sound using the instrument's vibration, without using strings or membranes</p> <p><b>Layers</b> Individual lines of music performed together to create the texture</p> <p><b>Leitmotif/ theme</b> Often used in opera, or film scores. A character has a leitmotif which is its theme. If they are on stage/ in shot/ being talked about or thought about, the theme will be played in the background.</p> <p><b>Lyrics</b> The words of a song</p>

	<p><b>Melodic phrase/phrase</b> A small unit of a melody, often corresponding to a line of a song</p> <p><b>Membranophone</b> An instrument which produces sound using a stretched membrane that vibrates</p> <p><b>Phrase</b> See Melodic phrase</p> <p><b>Pitch movement</b> The steps and leaps by which a melody moves up and down in pitch</p> <p><b>Rondo</b> A structure that has a recurring theme (A) alternating with contrasting sections: A B A C A D A</p> <p><b>Sequence</b> Musical phrases or parts played individually one after the other</p> <p><b>Ternary</b> A structure of music which has three sections, in which the first is repeated: A B A</p> <p><b>Staff Notation</b> Ways of writing music down – examples include graphic notation and staff notation</p> <p><b>Stave</b> The set of five parallel lines on which notes are placed to denote pitch and rhythm</p>
<p>Year 4 (Learn an instrument with the school music service)</p>	<p><b>Arrangement</b> A new version of an existing piece of music</p> <p><b>Crotchet</b> A note that has a duration of one beat</p> <p><b>Dimensions/elements</b> The inter-related building blocks of music (formerly referred to in the English National Curriculum as elements): duration, dynamics, pitch, structure, tempo, texture, and timbre (see definitions)</p> <p><b>Diminuendo</b> Getting quieter</p> <p><b>Dot notation</b> A simple form of Western staff notation. Dots are placed in height and distance relation to each other to indicate pitch and duration</p> <p><b>Expression</b> The emotion in music</p> <p><b>Improvisation</b> A piece of music which is created spontaneously</p> <p><b>Introduction</b> The beginning section of a piece of music</p> <p><b>Leap</b> The space between two musical notes which is greater than a step (see Step movement)</p> <p><b>Off-beat</b> See Syncopation</p> <p><b>Quaver</b> A note that has a duration of half a beat</p> <p><b>Rest</b> A silence</p> <p><b>Rhythmical</b> Music which is underpinned by a steady beat</p> <p><b>Solo</b> A piece of music for one singer or instrumentalist</p> <p><b>Syncopation</b> Often used synonymously with 'off-beat'. Both refer to a rhythm that emphasises normally weak beats</p> <p><b>Unison</b></p>

	When two or more voices/instruments sing or play the same melody at the same time
Year 5	<p><b>Backing vocal</b> An additional voice part that complements but is less important than the lead vocal (the main voice part)</p> <p><b>Bridge</b> A passage of music that links two sections of music together</p> <p><b>Chorus</b> The part of a song which repeats between the verses</p> <p><b>Cumulative</b> A musical structure in which individual parts join in one by one. It can apply both to the structure of the music itself (as in a cumulative song such as The Twelve Days of Christmas), or to the voices/instruments playing (as in the gradual addition of instruments playing the music of Boléro)</p> <p><b>Elements</b> See Dimensions</p> <p><b>Fanfare</b> A short piece of music usually played on brass instruments to announce a special event or occasion</p> <p><b>Groove</b> A short section of rhythmic layers, repeated over and over again</p> <p><b>Harmony</b> The relation of two or more notes that are played at the same time</p> <p><b>Lead vocal</b> The main voice part in a song – usually sings the melody</p> <p><b>Mickey mousing</b> A movie technique where music correlates with the action depicted on screen</p> <p><b>Spiritual</b> Songs created by enslaved African people in the United States. They are generally expressions of religious (often Christian) faith.</p> <p><b>Texture</b> Layers of sound, such as those created by a melody accompanied by a drum beat</p> <p><b>Verse</b> The section of a song which generally ‘tells the story’</p> <p><b>Waltz</b> A piece of dance music in 3/4-time where the first beat is emphasised</p>
Year 6	<p><b>Chord</b> Two or more notes played at the same time</p> <p><b>Cluster</b> A group of notes that are close in pitch and sounded together</p> <p><b>Flash mob</b> A group of people who collect together in a public space and suddenly perform music or dance</p> <p><b>Key</b> The ‘key’ of a piece of music refers to the scale on which the music is based and around which related harmonies are built. For instance a piece may be in the key of C major, meaning that its tonic, or home note, is the note C and the notes of its scale are C D E F G A B C</p> <p><b>Major</b> One of the most common types of eight-note musical scale. Often described as having a happy sound (see also Minor)</p> <p><b>Middle eight</b> A type of musical bridge – it is a short eight-bar passage in the middle of a song that links two sections</p> <p><b>Minimalism</b></p>

A style of composition based on the idea of simplicity that uses repetition and short and simple melodies

**Minor**

One of the most common types of eight-note musical scale. Often described as having a sad sound (see also Major)

**Modulation**

The changing of music into a different key

**Scat singing**

A style of vocal improvisation which uses nonsense sounds (instead of words) to imitate the sound of an instrument

**Song cycle**

A structure of music in which a group of songs is performed in a defined sequence

**Time signature**

Notation to specify how many beats (pulses) are contained in each measure (bar), and which note value is equivalent to a beat