

Music KS4 for Curriculum Documents

Year 1

Curriculum Overview for [Music]				
Autumn Term				
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Subject Content	Music Production	Music Production	Music Performance	Music Performance
	Key musical techniques such as looping and sampling are explored, enabling students to manipulate audio creatively. They also learn to create their own loop-based compositions, applying their understanding of structure, rhythm, and layering. In addition, students are introduced to MIDI programming, allowing them to compose and edit digital music using virtual instruments and sequencing tools.	Mixing recorded instruments and samples helps them understand balance and texture in a track. Students also explore EQ techniques to shape the tonal quality of individual sounds and enhance overall clarity. Additionally, they gain experience using effects processors such as reverb, delay, and compression to add depth and character to their music productions.	Students will strengthen their core musicianship skills alongside their technical development. They focus on timing and rhythm to improve accuracy and cohesion in both performance and composition. Emphasis is also placed on dynamics and expression, enabling students to perform with greater musicality and emotional impact.	Students will build on their practical musicianship with a focus on ensemble awareness, learning to listen and respond effectively within group performance settings. They develop improvisation skills, encouraging creativity and spontaneity in musical expression. Emphasis is placed on tempo control to ensure accuracy and cohesion in both solo and ensemble contexts. Students are also guided in performance reflection and feedback, helping them to critically evaluate their work and identify areas for improvement, fostering independent learning and musical growth.
Key Skills	- ICT skills - Looping and Sampling - Loop based composition - MIDI Programming	- Drum programming - Mixing recorded instruments and samples - EQ techniques - Using effects processors	- Musicianship skills - Timing and rhythm - Dynamics and expression - Chord progressions	- Ensemble awareness - Improvisation - Performance reflection and feedback - Tempo control

Spring Term				
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Subject Content	Music Production	Music Production	Music Genres	Music Genres
	Students will explore the exciting skill of writing music to picture, learning how to time and sync their compositions precisely with video footage. They develop their MIDI programming abilities specifically for film scoring, using digital tools to enhance storytelling through music. Alongside technical skills, students engage in creative collaboration, working together to produce cohesive audio-visual projects that blend musical and visual elements effectively.	During the spring term, students develop essential sound design techniques, learning how to create and manipulate audio elements to enhance film projects. They gain hands-on experience with audio recording, capturing high-quality sounds for use in their compositions. Using digital audio workstations (DAWs), students explore the process of producing film music, focusing on how to effectively use silence and space to build tension, mood, and atmosphere within a scene.	Students will focus on exploring various rhythms and grooves to enhance their sense of timing and style. They deepen their understanding of chord progressions, using this knowledge to create richer harmonic structures. Through active listening and analysis, students develop critical skills to evaluate different musical pieces and styles. Additionally, they apply these skills by producing original music within specific genres, encouraging creativity and personal expression.	Students delve into exploring the characteristics of different music genres, gaining an understanding of what makes each style unique. They focus on using authentic instrumentation to capture the true sound of each genre. Vocal style matching is emphasised to ensure performances align with genre conventions. Additionally, students study and apply genre-specific chord progressions to create music that reflects the distinct harmonic language of various styles.
Key Skills	- Writing music to picture - Timing and syncing music to video - Using MIDI for film - Creative collaboration	- Sound design techniques - Audio recording - Using DAW for film music - Use of silence and space in film	- Exploring various rhythm and groove - Chord progressions - Listening and analysing - Producing original music within a specific genre	- Exploring genre characteristics - Authentic instrumentation - Vocal style matching - Genre specific chord progressions

Summer Term				
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Subject Content	Music Theory	Music Theory	Music History	Music History
	In the KS4 summer term, students focus on developing their understanding of harmony by learning chord identification and the fundamentals of chord progressions. They explore how chords function within different musical contexts and study chord inversions to add variety and smoothness to their playing and compositions. These skills help build a solid foundation for more advanced music theory and practical musicianship.	Students will focus on foundational music theory skills such as constructing triads and mastering major and minor scales. These elements are essential for building melodic and harmonic understanding, enabling students to create more complex and expressive musical pieces. This term strengthens their theoretical knowledge and supports practical application in both composition and performance.	Students will explore the rich history of music by identifying different musical eras and understanding the historical contexts that shaped them. They study key composers from various periods, gaining insight into their styles, influences, and contributions to music. This knowledge helps students appreciate the evolution of music and informs their own creative and analytical work.	To develop skills that connect music to wider life experiences by comparing artists and composers across different eras. They learn to recognise and understand key musical vocabulary, which helps them articulate their ideas clearly. This approach encourages deeper critical thinking about how music reflects cultural and historical contexts, enriching both their analytical and creative work.
Key Skills	- Chord identification - Understanding chord progressions - Inversions of chords	- Constructing triads - Major scales - Minor scales	- Identifying musical eras - Understanding historical contexts - Studying key composers	- Connecting life to music - Comparing artists/ composers across eras - Recognising key words

Year 2

Curriculum Overview for [Music]				
Autumn Term				
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Subject Content	Music Production	Music Production	Music Performance	Music Performance
	Students to develop their vocal production skills alongside technical abilities in using virtual instruments. They gain practical experience with audio recording techniques, learning how to capture high-quality sound. Critical listening and analysis are also key focuses, enabling students to evaluate music thoughtfully and improve their own creative work.	To develop and explore essential skills in mixing fundamentals, learning how to balance and blend different audio elements effectively. They also focus on portfolio and presentation skills, preparing their work professionally for assessment or showcase.	To focus on developing rhythmic accuracy and dynamic control to enhance their overall musical precision and expression. They work on timing and coordination, essential skills for both solo and ensemble performances. Additionally, students deepen their stylistic awareness, learning to adapt their playing or singing to suit different musical genres and contexts, which helps to create more authentic and engaging performances.	To develop practical musicianship skills such as instrument maintenance and setup to ensure their instruments are performance-ready. They work on developing instrumental techniques to improve accuracy and expression. Improvisation is encouraged to foster creativity and spontaneity in their playing. Additionally, students engage in performance reflection and feedback, helping them to evaluate their progress and identify areas for improvement.
Key Skills	- Vocal production - Virtual instrument use - Audio recording techniques - Critical listening and analysis	- Mixing fundamentals - Portfolio and presentation skills - Automation - Exporting audio formats	- Rhythmic accuracy - Dynamic control - Timing and co-ordination - Stylistic awareness	- Instrument maintenance and set up - Instrumental technique development - Improvisation - Performance reflection and feedback

Spring Term				
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Subject Content	Music Production (Film)	Music Production (Film)	Music Genres	Music Genres
	Students will develop essential music production skills focusing on digital techniques. They learn to quantize and edit MIDI data to improve timing and accuracy in their compositions. MIDI sequencing is practiced to arrange and structure musical ideas effectively. Basic audio editing skills are introduced, allowing students to manipulate sound recordings with confidence. Additionally, students explore loop-based composition, combining repetitive musical phrases to create cohesive and dynamic pieces.	To develop practical audio production skills, starting with setting up audio interfaces to connect instruments and microphones. They learn to use effects processors to enhance and shape sounds creatively. Panning techniques are explored to create spatial balance within a mix, while EQ techniques help students adjust frequency ranges to improve clarity and overall sound quality.	Students to explore how technology is used to create genre-specific sounds, enhancing their ability to produce authentic music styles. They develop an understanding of the cultural significance behind various musical genres, broadening their appreciation of global music traditions. By studying pioneers and innovators, students gain insight into the evolution of music and the impact of key figures across different cultures and eras.	To develop skills in using technology to perform genre-specific music, enhancing their technical and stylistic abilities. They learn to contextualize music within media, understanding how sound shapes meaning and audience experience. Through genre-based composition, students create original pieces that reflect the characteristics of different musical styles. Additionally, they engage in reflecting on their personal genre preferences, fostering greater self-awareness and musical exploration.
Key Skills	- Quantizing and editing MIDI - MIDI Sequencing - Basic audio editing - Loop based composition	- Using effects processors - Audio interface setup - Panning techniques - EQ techniques	- Using technology to create genre specific sounds - Understanding cultural significance - Exploring global music genres - Studying pioneers and innovators	- Using technology to play genre specific music - Contextualising music in the media - Genre based composition - Reflecting on personal genre preferences

Summer Term				
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Subject Content	Music History	Music History	Music Theory	Music Theory
	To focus on understanding the distinct styles of various artists and composers, learning to identify their unique musical characteristics. They compare composers across different eras to explore how music has evolved over time. Additionally, students study the development of genres, gaining insight into the cultural and historical factors that have shaped musical styles.	To explore the evolution of musical instruments, understanding how changes in design and technology have influenced music over time. They engage in contextual listening to appreciate how instruments are used within different historical and cultural settings. Additionally, students evaluate the historical influence of these developments on musical styles and genres, deepening their overall musical knowledge.	To build fundamental music theory skills by understanding note durations and how they contribute to rhythm. They learn to recognise different time signatures, which helps in interpreting the beat and structure of pieces. Additionally, students develop the ability to read notes on a stave, enabling them to perform and compose music with greater accuracy and confidence.	To develop their ability to understand pitch both visually through notation and aurally through listening. They explore melodic devices such as sequences, motifs, and repetition to enhance their compositional and analytical skills. Students also focus on applying theoretical knowledge directly to performance, strengthening the connection between musical understanding and practical execution.
Key Skills	- Understanding artist/ composer styles - Comparing composers across eras - Development of genres	- Understanding instrument evolution - Contextual listening - Evaluating historical influence	- Understanding note durations - Recognising time signatures - Reading notes on a stave	- Understanding pitches visually and by ear - Melodic devices - Apply theory to performance