

## Music - KS3 Curriculum Overview (2025/2026)

For more details, including details of assessments, please see the ‘Music Y7-11 Curriculum Map’ document

**Performance skills and musical knowledge are built upon throughout each unit and across all 3 years at KS3.**

**Students learn through practical music making throughout with many opportunities to perform in pairs, ensembles and as a class.**

	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>
Unit 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Building blocks of music:</b> Elements of music, graphic score notation</li> <li>● <b>Using the voice:</b> developing vocal and ensemble skills</li> <li>● <b>Ensemble skills:</b> developing ensemble skills using percussion instruments and ukuleles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Blues Music:</b> ostinato, hooks, riffs, bass lines, broken chords, (including bass clef notation), swing rhythms, blues chord sequence including 7th chords, blues scale, improvisation, lyric writing and developing ensemble skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Music for Stage and Screen: Film music:</b> exploring Film Music, leitmotifs, the music of James Bond, using music to create mood and atmosphere</li> <li>● <b>Solo and ensemble performance skills</b></li> </ul>
Unit 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Rhythm and staff notation - Reading music:</b> exploring pulse, beat, rhythm, note values, time signatures, treble clef notation and ostinato, drumming skills</li> <li>● <b>Developing keyboard skills and performance techniques,</b> using the correct hand position and fingers, playing chords</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Blues composition</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Music for Stage and Screen: Film music:</b> Horror movie music</li> <li>● <b>Dracula film composition</b></li> </ul>
Unit 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Pentatonic composition:</b> notation development and introduction to <b>Sibelius</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Rock ‘n’ Roll:</b> exploring the musical genre and the development of popular music, lyrics writing, developing ensemble and band skills and composition skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Music for Stage and Screen: Musical theatre:</b> exploring the music from musicals from 1920s to present day</li> <li>● <b>Solo and ensemble performance skills</b> (keyboard)</li> <li>● <b>Vocal skills</b></li> </ul>

Unit 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Pentatonic music</b> - exploring <b>Chinese</b> music and <b>Gamelan</b> music</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Rock ‘n’ Roll - composition:</b> lyric writing, developing ensemble and band skills and composition skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Music for Stage and Screen: Video Game music:</b> exploring the music from video games - composition assessment</li> </ul>
Unit 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Form and Structure:</b> exploring Question and Answer phrases, Variations, Ground Bass, Binary form, Ternary form, Rondo form</li> <li>● <b>Group performance and composition</b></li> <li>● <b>Sonority City:</b> exploring Instruments of the Orchestra, the role of the conductor and performing as an ensemble</li> <li>●</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Reggae Music:</b> exploring bass lines, song lyrics, the 4-chord trick, keyboard accompaniment styles, drum/rhythm patterns and creating an arrangement and ensemble performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Pop Music band projects:</b> exploring popular songs, song structures, hooks and riffs, melody, lyric writing and creating arrangements</li> <li>● <b>Mini-festival performances</b></li> </ul>
Unit 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ukulele solo and ensemble performance skills:</b> exploring strumming patterns and techniques, understanding chords and chord sequences, major and minor, developing solo and ensemble performance skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Pop Music and Developing ukulele skills,</b> including strumming patterns and techniques, developing ensemble skills</li> </ul>	