

Music - KS3 Curriculum Overview (2026/2027)

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.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Unit 1	● Building blocks of music: Elements of music, graphic score notation ● Using the voice: developing vocal and ensemble skills ● Ensemble skills: developing ensemble skills using percussion instruments and ukuleles	● Blues Music: 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	● Music for Stage and Screen: Film music: exploring Film Music, leitmotifs, the music of James Bond, using music to create mood and atmosphere ● Solo and ensemble performance skills
Unit 2	● Rhythm and staff notation - Reading music: exploring pulse, beat, rhythm, note values, time signatures, treble clef notation and ostinato, drumming skills ● Developing keyboard skills and performance techniques, using the correct hand position and fingers, playing chords	● Blues improvisation and composition ● Reading bass clef notation	● Music for Stage and Screen: Film music: Horror movie music ● Dracula film composition
Unit 3	● Pentatonic composition: notation development and introduction to Sibelius	● Rock 'n' Roll: exploring the musical genre and the development of popular music, lyric writing, developing ensemble and band skills and composition skills	● Music for Stage and Screen: Musical theatre: exploring the music from musicals from 1920s to present day ● Solo and ensemble performance skills (keyboard) ● Vocal skills

Unit 4	● Pentatonic music - exploring Chinese music and Gamelan music	● Reggae Music: exploring bass lines, song lyrics, the 4-chord trick, keyboard accompaniment styles, drum/rhythm patterns and creating an arrangement and ensemble performance	● Music for Stage and Screen: Video Game music: exploring the music from video games - composition assessment
Unit 5	● Form and Structure: exploring Question and Answer phrases, Variations, Ground Bass, Binary form, Ternary form, Rondo form ● Group performance and composition ● Sonority City: exploring Instruments of the Orchestra, the role of the conductor and performing as an ensemble ●	● Pop Music and Developing ukulele skills, including strumming patterns and techniques, developing ensemble skills	● Pop Music band projects: exploring popular songs, song structures, hooks and riffs, melody, lyric writing and creating arrangements ● Mini-festival performances
Unit 6	● Ukulele solo and ensemble performance skills: exploring strumming patterns and techniques, understanding chords and chord sequences, major and minor, developing solo and ensemble performance skills		