

Skill Progression Early years and Key Stage One 2025-26

Singing				
Skill: Singing: Birth to Three	Skill: Singing: Three and Four	Skill: Singing: Reception	Skill: Singing: Year One	Skill: Singing: Year Two
Join in with songs and rhymes and take part in action songs	Remember and sing entire songs	Sing in a group and on own	Sing with others	Sing regularly with increasing accuracy of pitch
	Sing at pitch	Match the pitch of a melody	Sing at a given pitch	
	Sing the melodic shape	Follow the shape of a melody	Control vocal pitch and sing in tune with others	
	Create own songs		Follow visual instructions	Sing expressively paying attention to dynamics and tempo of song

Listening				
Skill: Listening: Birth to Three	Skill: Listening: Three and Four	Skill: Listening: Reception	Skill: Listening: Year One	Skill: Listening: Year Two
Show attention	Show increased attention	Listen attentively and actively	Identify different elements and sounds in music e.g. high and low; strings; piano;	Identify strong and weak beats and beat groupings
Respond emotionally or physically	Respond by expressing own thoughts and feelings.	Talk about music, expressing ideas, feelings and responses	Talk about what they hear – likes and dislikes	Talk about music expressing own thoughts using correct / appropriate vocabulary
Move and dance		Move to music expressively	Recognise and play/move in time to the beat	Recognise changes in tempo and dynamic

Anticipate phrases and actions				
Explore voice and enjoy making sounds (because of what they are hearing)				

Composing				
Skill: Composing: Birth to Three	Skill: Composing: Three and Four	Skill: Composing: Reception	Skill: Composing: Year One	Skill: Composing: Year Two
	Explore and develop own ideas and choose how to express them.	Refine, return to, and build on ideas	Improvise simple vocal chants	Create a musical conversation using vocal sounds - question and answer phrases
			Create sound effects and short sequences of sound	Create music in response to a non-musical stimulus
			Invent, retain and recall short rhythmic and melodic phrases	Create a musical conversation using rhythmic and melodic phrases - question and answer phrases
			Read from and use graphic notation	Read from and use graphic notation. Use stick notation for rhythms.
			Use technology to record music compositions and performances	Use technology to record music compositions and performances

Performing				
Skill: Performing: Birth to Three	Skill: Performing: Three and Four	Skill: Performing: Reception	Skill: Musicianship: Year One	Skill: Musicianship: Year Two
Explore a range of sound makers and instruments and play them in different ways	Play instruments with increased control to express feelings and ideas.	Respond to changes in sound or mood	Recognise what is meant by tempo (speed)	Recognise changes in tempo
				Understand and demonstrate getting louder and getting quieter
		Keep a steady beat	Recognise and play/move in time to the beat	Identify strong and weak beats and beat groupings
Make rhythmical and repetitive sounds		Play rhythms	Play short rhythmic and pitch patterns to a beat	Create, notate and perform short rhythmic patterns
			Identify high and low sounds	Understand how pitch can be represented by dot notation