



Department  
for Education

# Music

**Programmes of study for Key Stages 1-3**

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# Contents

Purpose of study	3
Aims	3
Attainment targets	3
Subject content	4
Key Stage 1	4
Key Stage 2	4
Key Stage 3	5

## Purpose of study

Music is a universal language and every pupil should have the opportunity to become fluent. A high-quality music education should provide all pupils with the opportunity to sing and to learn a musical instrument. Pupils should leave school with an appreciation of how music is composed and performed, allowing them to listen with discrimination and judgement to the best in the musical canon.

## Aims

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of great musicians and composers
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to compose and make music with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand musical notations and how music is constructed, produced and communicated through its inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure.

## Attainment targets

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

# Subject content

## Key Stage 1

Pupils should be taught to:

- use their voices expressively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- make and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

## Key Stage 2

Pupils should be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They should develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds as part of an aural memory.

Pupils should be taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voice and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, control and expression
- improvise and compose music using the inter-related dimensions of music separately and in combination
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand the basics of staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music from different traditions and from great musicians and composers
- develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Key Stage 3

Pupils should build on their previous knowledge through performing, composing and listening. They should develop their vocal and/or instrumental fluency, accuracy and expressiveness; understand musical structures, styles, genres and traditions and identify the expressive use of musical elements. They should listen with increasing discrimination, and appreciate and understand a wide range of musical contexts and styles to inform judgements.

Pupils should be taught to:

- play and perform confidently in solo or ensemble contexts using their voice and playing instruments musically and fluently with accuracy and expression
- compose, extend and develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres and traditions
- use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions
- identify and use expressively the inter-related dimensions of music with increasing sophistication, including through extended use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices
- listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers
- develop a deep understanding of the music that they perform and listen to, and its history.



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