



Key Stage: 3

Subject: Music

Aims of the subject:

In music at Key Stage 3, pupils develop the skills, knowledge and understanding required to be a musician, through a series of practical units built around themes as diverse as The Beatles, Instruments of the Orchestra, Film Music and Coldplay. A firm understanding of the standard conventions of staff notation underpins all of the practical work undertaken, and pupils learn to apply this to instrumental performance focusing on graded keyboard work. Singing is an important aspect of music at Key Stage 3 and all pupils take part in singing activities throughout the year, with regular whole-year group singing in worship. The skills which pupils develop in Key Stage 3 are designed to enable them to continue their study at Key Stage 4 without necessarily needing to have had private instrumental lessons (although many do).

Year 7

What will I learn?	What will I do?
Unit 1: Giant Slayer Vocal technique, posture and breathing Music in context Music literacy	Whole class singing in unison and two parts. Learn a piece of musical theatre, looking at how songs can be used to tell a story. Practical and written tasks using staff notation.
Unit 2: Patterns in Music Music literacy How music is constructed Aural skills	Range of activities looking at how music is notated and what the symbols mean. Practical activities to connect the ideas together. Listening to music and identifying the patterns in music.
Unit 3: Octopus' Garden Vocal technique, posture and breathing Keyboard skills: right hand Music literacy	Unison singing to develop an aural memory for the keyboard task. Learn to play a right hand melody based on a sung activity. All tasks are based in western staff notation.
Unit 4: Musical Contexts Music in context Aural skills Keyboard skills: both hands Music literacy	Explore the development of music from the Middle Ages to present day. Listen to music from different periods of history. Practical and written tasks using staff notation.
Unit 5: Improvisation and the Blues Music in context Improvisation Keyboard skills: both hands Music literacy	Learn about the origins of the Blues. Develop your ability to improvise and learn a Blues piece on keyboard using both hands. Practical and written tasks using staff notation.
Unit 6: Instruments of the Orchestra Music in context Instrument families Layout of the orchestra Aural skills Keyboard skills: both hands	Learn about the instruments of the orchestra. See and hear the instruments in action. Explore their use in some of the most famous orchestral works, including Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Learn a famous orchestral work on the keyboard.

Year 8

What will I learn?	What will I do?
Unit 1: Coldplay Vocal technique, posture and breathing Melodic dictation and aural skills Music literacy: song structure, bass clef, treble clef Keyboard skills: both hands, accompaniment patterns, fingering	Unison and three-part singing. Melodic dictation using western staff notation. Keyboard tasks using western staff notation. Playing an accompaniment for three Coldplay songs.
Unit 2: Film Music The role of music in films Musical literacy Aural skills Keyboard skills: both hands	Explore how music can support the scene in a film as well as the plot more generally. Learn about some of the most famous film composers of all time and films they have worked on. Investigate the different instruments used in a film orchestra and the sounds they can make. Learn to play a piece of film music on the keyboard.
Unit 3: The Beatles Their career Beatles songs Keyboard skills: both hands Music literacy	Range of activities looking at The Beatles and their career. Learn to sing several songs by The Beatles. Learn to play a Beatles song on the keyboard. Practical and written tasks using staff notation.
Unit 4: Patterns in Music Music literacy How music is constructed Aural skills	Range of activities looking at how music is notated and what the symbols mean. Practical activities to connect the ideas together. Listening to music and identifying the patterns in music.
Unit 5: Writing Music Composition Music literacy: treble clef, rhythmic notation, key signatures, chords	Learn to write good melodies which fit with a chord sequence, using non-harmony notes. Written tasks using western staff notation.
Unit 6: Baroque Music Music in context Keyboard skills: both hands, independent lines, fingering Music literacy: treble clef, bass clef, rhythmic notation, key signatures	Study the Baroque period: key dates, events and people. Learn to play a ground bass piece.

Co-curricular opportunities

Department ensembles: Junior boys' and girls' choirs; auditioned chapel choir; theory group; school band; concert band; jazz band; junior jazz band; brass group; percussion ensemble; clarinet ensemble; string group. Peripatetic lessons: One-to-one tuition is available in school [speak to Mr Gillthorpe or Dr Allcock].

How you can support your child's progress

Encourage regular practice on the keyboards; music rooms are available at break and lunchtime if pupils do not have access to a keyboard at home. Websites such as www.musictheory.net and iPhone/iPad apps such as Tenuto or the ABRSM aural trainer are particularly useful.