Music

Long-term plan

Mixed-age

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Suggested long-term plan: Music

Overview (All year groups)

Cycle A	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1/2	My favourite things: Keeping the pulse	Snail and mouse: Tempo	Superheroes: Pitch	Musical storytelling: Instruments	On this island: Singing	Musical me: Pitch
Year 3/4	Mountain melodies: Steps and leaps	Inspired by India: Musical improvisations	Reading rhythms: Patterns and layers	Music technology: Introduction to music technology	Sounds of China: Scales and structure	Baroque meets pop: Building harmony
Year 5/6	Three-chord pop: Playing in a band	Four-chord pop: Playing in a band	Bhangra beats: Global grooves	Music technology: Film soundtracks	Theme and variations: Developing melodies	Songs that speak: Lyrics and messages

Cycle B	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1/2	Seaside: Dynamics	Fairytales: Sound patterns	Animals: Call and response	Under the sea: Musical symbols	Space: Contrasting dynamics	Myths and legends: Structure
Year 3/4	Singing in parts: Loops and layers	Musical motifs: Reading the stave	Reggae rhythms: Playing in a band	Music technology: Loop-based composition	12-bar blues: Playing in a band	Minimalist melodies: Developing patterns
Year 5/6	Music in nature: Chords and melodies	West African rhythms: Create, play and perform	Music technology: Podcasts and jingles	Stage and song: Storytelling through music	Samba sounds: Rhythm and groove	Leavers: Our story in song

Click here for information on different mixed-age year group combinations for Music.

Kapow Primary is refreshing its Music scheme for 2026/27 – learn more here. Units will be added to the upcoming long-term plan as they are published, well in advance

of teaching.

See *Music: Instrumental scheme* for guidance on how to incorporate the instrumental scheme into your planning.

Suggested long-term plan: Music

Overview - Key stage 1

Year 1/2

Unit 1	My favourite things: Keeping the pulse 5 lessons Learning how to keep a steady pulse, pupils take part in music and movement activities inspired by their favourite things. They move to the beat of the music while expressing and responding to objects and experiences that are meaningful to them.	**Unit 2**	Snail and mouse: Tempo 5 lessons Using voices, bodies and instruments to listen and respond to different pieces of music, pupils learn and perform a rhyme and song with a focus on tempo. Through the adventures of the snail and mouse, they explore how tempo can help shape a musical story.
Unit 3	Superheroes: Pitch 5 lessons Exploring pitch by identifying high and low notes and listening to contrasting musical sounds. Pupils experiment with combining different pitches to compose a simple superhero melody that reflects the character's personality and actions.	**Unit 4**	Musical storytelling: Instruments 5 lessons Exploring longer pieces of music, pupils look at how music can tell a story through a variety of instruments. They think creatively, considering how sounds can represent characters, actions and emotions when creating a soundscape to tell the story of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Year 1/2

Unit 5	<u>On this island: Singing</u> 5 lessons Identifying how music can represent different environments by singing songs and creating contrasting soundscapes. Pupils use instruments, body percussion and folk songs to evoke the atmosphere of three different landscapes.	**Unit 6**	<u>Musical me: Pitch</u> 5 lessons Developing pitch awareness through learning the song ‘Once a Man Fell in a Well’ and recreating its melody using tuned instruments. Pupils connect sounds to specific pitches and begin to understand how simple symbols can be used to represent musical notation.

Suggested long-term plan: Music

Overview - Lower key stage 2

Year 3/4

Unit 1	Mountain melodies: Steps and leaps 5 lessons Investigating melody and pitch through using graphic scores to identify changes in pitch by step, leap or repeated note. Pupils compose short melodic pieces inspired by mountain drawings, then experiment with dynamics and movement to bring their musical landscapes to life.	**Unit 2**	Inspired by India: Musical improvisations 5 lessons Exploring traditional Indian music and the art of improvisation by using the pentatonic scale and simple musical techniques. Pupils create short improvisations and experiment with pitch, dynamics and tempo to express different moods and musical ideas.
Unit 3	Reading rhythms: Patterns and layers 5 lessons Exploring pulse, rhythm and body percussion while developing confidence in reading, creating and performing rhythmic patterns. Pupils build their understanding of note values and rests before composing, notating and performing their own four-beat rhythms as part of an ensemble.	**Unit 4**	Music technology: Introduction to music technology 0 lessons Studying sampling as a modern compositional technique, pupils discover how existing sounds can be transformed into new musical ideas. Pupils use Kapow Music Maker, a bespoke browser-based platform to edit audio samples, experiment with looping and layering and develop their own digital compositions. No additional software, apps or purchases are required; Kapow Music Maker is included with every Kapow subscription and is accessed through a web browser. Further guidance and support materials will be available before these units are published.

Year 3/4

Unit 5	Sounds of China: Scales and structure 5 lessons Examining traditional Chinese music through listening, improvising and performing, pupils deepen their understanding of the pentatonic scale. They create their own improvisations with a focus on structure and contrast, while developing collaborative and creative thinking skills through group performance.	**Unit 6**	Baroque meets pop: Building harmony 0 lessons Discovering how Baroque music's bold musical ideas continue to inspire modern pop songs. Pupils identify key features of the Baroque style before learning and performing patterns and motifs in their own Baroque-inspired piece.

Suggested long-term plan: Music

Overview - Upper key stage 2

Year 5/6

Unit 1	Three-chord pop: Playing in a band 5 lessons Learning about the features of pop music while singing and performing as a band. Pupils learn a bass line, chords and melody for a well-known pop song, develop singing and rehearsal techniques and use musical elements to create an energetic and confident final performance.	**Unit 2**	Four-chord pop: Playing in a band 5 lessons Exploring the key features of pop music, including harmony, rhythm and ensemble performance, and how music can express shared feelings and experiences. Pupils develop vocal and instrumental skills before combining bass lines, chords, rhythms and harmonies to perform confidently as a pop band.
Unit 3	Bhangra beats: Global grooves 0 lessons Discovering the rhythms, melodies and cultural traditions of Punjabi music and dance by listening, performing and experimenting with musical ideas. Pupils develop their understanding of rhythm and melody before composing and performing their own Bhangra-inspired piece.	**Unit 4**	Music technology: Film soundtracks 0 lessons Exploring how music and film work together to create mood, atmosphere and meaning, pupils use Kapow Music Maker, a bespoke browser-based platform, to synchronise sound with video. They identify key musical features in film and enhance film clips with sound effects, loops and original musical ideas. No additional software, apps or purchases are required. Kapow Music Maker is included with every Kapow subscription and is accessed through a web browser. Further guidance and support materials will be available before these units are published.

Year 5/6

Unit 5	Theme and variations: Developing melodies 0 lessons Investigating the musical form of theme and variations through combining a range of composition techniques. Pupils experiment with changing rhythm, pitch, dynamics and texture to transform a simple theme and compose their own contrasting variations.	**Unit 6**	Songs that speak: Lyrics and messages 5 lessons Exploring how songs communicate messages through lyrics, musical elements and performance, using the song ‘Hall of Fame’ as a context for learning. Pupils analyse song lyrics, write and perform their own verses, accompany them with chords and refine their performances to communicate a clear message to an audience.

Suggested long-term plan: Music

Overview - Key stage 1

Year 1/2

Unit 1	Seaside: Dynamics 5 lessons Exploring the connection between sound and the environment, pupils work together to create a seaside soundscape using percussion instruments, vocal sounds and body percussion. They vary dynamics to create contrasts between loud and soft sounds.	**Unit 2**	Fairytales: Sound patterns 5 lessons Examining a range of fairytales, pupils identify key moments in each story. They clap and read simple sound patterns linked to different characters, then use these patterns to retell the stories through sound and movement.
Unit 3	Animals: Call and response 5 lessons Developing rhythm and pulse through chanting call-and-response sound patterns and performing with untuned percussion instruments. Pupils create and echo rhythmic ideas while responding to each other's chants to build musical communication and performance skills.	**Unit 4**	Under the sea: Musical symbols 5 lessons Exploring the depths of the sea through music, movement, musical symbols and tuned percussion instruments. Pupils interpret musical symbols, translate visual cues into sound and use tuned percussion to represent the underwater world.

Year 1/2

Unit 5	Space: Contrasting dynamics 5 lessons Developing their understanding of contrasting dynamics, pupils listen to music inspired by planets and use these examples to create their own compositions. They explore how loud and soft sounds can represent the unique characteristics of different planets.	**Unit 6**	Myths and legends: Structure 5 lessons Investigating musical structure by listening to, analysing and performing a song based on a well-known myth. Pupils identify sections and sound patterns within the music before using voices and instruments to perform short musical phrases that help tell a story.

Suggested long-term plan: Music

Overview - Lower key stage 2

Year 3/4

Unit 1	Singing in parts: Loops and layers 5 lessons Developing vocal technique, confidence and control by singing in rounds and performing musical loops. Pupils build independence, timing and listening skills while collaborating to create layered group performances.	**Unit 2**	Musical motifs: Reading the stave 5 lessons Developing an understanding of musical notation by learning how notes move higher and lower on the stave through reading, playing and composing short musical motifs. Pupils apply their understanding by recognising patterns within musical phrases, creating motifs for characters and performing compositions using stave notation.
Unit 3	Reggae rhythms: Playing in a band 5 lessons Discovering reggae through some of Bob Marley's most iconic songs, pupils learn simplified bass lines, basic chords and the concept of the offbeat. Pupils combine these musical elements to rehearse and perform collaboratively in their own reggae bands.	**Unit 4**	Music technology: Loop-based composition 0 lessons Developing digital literacy through music technology, pupils create and manipulate musical loops. They turn simple motifs into catchy loops using Kapow Music Maker, a bespoke browser-based platform. Pupils layer sounds and compose complementary parts to create their own digital compositions. No additional software, apps or purchases are required. Kapow Music Maker is included with every Kapow subscription and is accessed through a web browser. Further guidance and support materials will be available before these units are published.

Year 3/4

Unit 5	12-bar blues: Playing in a band 0 lessons Exploring the history of blues music through listening, singing and playing, pupils recognise key features of the genre. They play bass lines and chords, sing simple blues melodies and experiment with improvisation to understand how these elements create the distinctive sound of the blues.	**Unit 6**	Minimalist melodies: Developing patterns 0 lessons Exploring minimalist music, pupils recognise how simple musical ideas can develop into engaging compositions. By listening to key minimalist works, they identify how recurring motifs and subtle musical changes create interest, before using minimalist techniques to compose their own pieces.

Suggested long-term plan: Music

Overview - Upper key stage 2

Year 5/6

Unit 1	Music in nature: Chords and melodies 5 lessons Drawing inspiration from the power of nature, pupils compose short melodies to reflect different moods of the sky. They experiment with pitch, dynamics and harmony, using simple chords to add depth and atmosphere to their performances.	**Unit 2**	West African rhythms: Create, play and perform 0 lessons Exploring the rhythms of West Africa, pupils experience the energy of traditional ensemble music. They learn how rhythmic patterns fit together and take responsibility for different parts, combining rhythms collaboratively to create layered textures.
Unit 3	Music technology: Podcasts and jingles 0 lessons Exploring the world of podcast production through music and audio technology, pupils use Kapow Music Maker, a bespoke browser-based platform, to produce their own podcasts. They record and edit spoken audio, create original jingles and develop their mixing skills by balancing, arranging and enhancing recordings. No additional software, apps or purchases are required. Kapow Music Maker is included with every Kapow subscription and is accessed through a web browser. Further guidance and support materials will be available before these units are published.	**Unit 4**	Stage and song: Storytelling through music 0 lessons Exploring musical theatre and how music helps to tell stories through solos, duets and ensemble performances. Pupils explore how composers use musical elements to create mood and develop narrative before extending their vocal skills through singing in 3/4 time and performing across a wider vocal range.

Year 5/6

Unit 5	Samba sounds: Rhythm and groove 0 lessons Discovering the energy and traditions of Brazilian samba and its role in Carnival celebrations. Pupils learn about samba instruments and rhythmic patterns before working collaboratively to rehearse and perform as part of their own samba band.	**Unit 6**	Leavers: Our story in song 0 lessons Composing and performing an original leavers' song in pop bands. Pupils combine bass lines, chords, melody and song structure while crafting lyrics using rhythm and rhyme to create a collaborative performance reflecting their time at school.