







Year 1 – Summer 2 - Whole School Music Vocabulary

Year 1	<p>Loud – dynamics (volume) Quiet – dynamics (volume) Fast – tempo (speed) Slow – tempo (speed) High – referring to pitch – high notes Low – referring to pitch – low notes Band - playing/singing/performing together. Lyrics - the words of a song. Performing - singing and playing instruments. Pulse/beat - the heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music – what we tap or clap along to.</p>
Year 2	<p>Pulse/beat - the heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music – what we tap or clap along to. Rhythm - the combination of long and short sounds to make patterns. Pitch - the range of high and low sounds. Tempo – an Italian word used to describe how fast/slow the music goes. Dynamics – how loud or quiet the music is. Melody – another name for a tune. Composing – making/creating a piece of music or short musical phrase. Improvise – make up a tune or play it on the spot.</p>
Year 3	<p>Notes – the individual building blocks of a musical melody/tune or chords (e.g. C, D, E, F#, C# etc). Notation – ways to represent the visual form of music/how music is written. Tuned instrument – an instrument that can play specific notes and that can change its tuning (). Untuned instrument – an instrument that can make sounds, but not be 'tuned' to play specific notes (e.g. most percussion instruments – triangle, woodblock, tambourine). Style – the type of music, e.g. blues, rock, classical. Timbre (pronounced 'tamba')– quality and character of sounds – playful, spooky, swirling etc. Texture – layers of sounds in music/how sounds are combined in a piece of music.</p>
Year 4	<p>Chords – a group of two or more notes played together (usually three notes). Harmony – different notes sung or played at the same time to produce chords.</p> <p>Crotchet – a 1-beat note. </p> <p>Minim – a 2-beat note. </p> <p>Semibreve – a 4-beat note. </p> <p>Quaver – a half-beat note. </p> <p>Composers – people who create music. Phrase – a group of sounds that make sense when played in a sequence (like a musical sentence).</p>
Year 5	<p>Staff – the five parallel lines on which musical notes are written.</p> <p>Time signature – shows how many beats are in a bar, e.g. $\frac{4}{4}$ means 4 crotchet beats in a bar (top number=how many beats, bottom number=type of beat). Scale – an arrangement of notes in ascending and descending order. Solo – an Italian word used to describe playing/singing/performing on our own. Unison – singing or playing the same tune together.</p>
Year 6	<p>Acapella – without accompaniment from musical instruments, i.e. voices only. Balance – the level of volume at which players sing or play; if the balance is good then everyone can be heard. Coda – short section which brings the song or piece to an end. Cover – a version of a song performed by someone other than the original artist that might sound a bit (or very) different. Ensemble – a French word used to describe playing/singing/performing together. Riff – a short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone. Consolidate all the above and use to describe, compare and evaluate different kinds of music.</p>

Whole School Musical Concepts

These are the elements of music and are covered and revisited in all year groups.

Pitch	Pitch is the sound of a single note in relation to other notes. Words which can describe the pitch include: high, low, treble, bass, sharp or flat.
Duration and Tempo	Duration is the length of time each note is played for. Tempo is the speed of a piece of music. The tempo can change during a piece. The tempo describes the pulse or beat of the music. Sometimes we use Italian words to describe the tempo such as <i>lento</i> , which means slow, or <i>allegro</i> , which means lively.
Dynamics	Dynamics are used to describe the volume of one or more notes in a piece of music. The dynamic can change gradually or suddenly. Symbols known as dynamic markings, based on Italian descriptions, are often used.
Texture	The texture of a piece of music describes how the different sounds are being woven together. A thick texture uses several ideas at once. A thinner texture will have fewer parts. A whole class singing "Frere Jacques" is a thin texture. A few children singing the same song as a four-part round, starting at different times will create a thicker texture.
Structure	Structure is the overall framework of a piece of music. The structure of a song will usually have an introduction, some verses and a chorus.
Timbre	Timbre is the unique sound quality which helps us to distinguish between different instruments and voices. The different ways an instrument is played can change its timbre.
Pulse and Rhythm	Pulse is the heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music – what we tap or clap along to. Rhythm is the combination of long and short sounds to make patterns.
Notation	Notation is the method used to record, on paper or on screen, music that is heard or performed. A musician needs to read and write notation to share ideas. There are several different types of standard notation.