

KS2 LOWER MUSIC CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS

Music in Lower Key Stage 2 helps children deepen their enjoyment and understanding of music. They begin to read simple notation, perform with confidence, and compose their own pieces using voice, instruments, and digital tools.



Children should:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music from a range of traditions.
- Sing, play and compose using the interrelated dimensions of music (pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure).
- Begin to use musical notation to record ideas.
- Develop an understanding of how music reflects time, place and culture.



Use their voices creatively by:

- Singing songs clearly and expressively in unison and rounds.
- Developing control of pitch, dynamics and phrasing.
- Performing confidently in class and group settings.
- Learning songs linked to topics and key events.



Play Tuned and Untuned Instruments

- Perform rhythms and melodies using wind or brass or stringed instruments
- Learn to read and play from simple notation.
- Keep a steady beat and play in time with others.
- Explore layering sounds to create texture.



Listen to a Range of Music

- Listen carefully to classical, world, jazz, pop, and folk music.
- Identify instruments, pitch, dynamics, and tempo.
- Learn about composers such as Beethoven, Saint-Saëns and world music traditions.
- Respond to music through movement, art, or discussion.



Use Musical Language:

- Pitch (high/low)
- Tempo (speed)
- Dynamics (loud/quiet)
- Rhythm (pattern of sound)
- Texture (layers of sound)



Create and Compose Music

- **Improvise and compose short patterns and melodies.**
- **Work individually or in groups to develop structure and dynamics.**
- **Compose music linked to colour, movement or feelings.**
- **Use technology for looping and remixing simple rhythms.**



Music helps children:

- **Develop listening, coordination and confidence.**
- **Express themselves creatively and emotionally.**
- **Work together and build concentration.**
- **Appreciate and enjoy music from different times and cultures.**

KS2L How can I help my child at home?

Your encouragement helps children build confidence and curiosity, seeing music as something everyone can enjoy.



Singing songs together at home or in the car



**Ask simple questions like:
“What instruments can you hear?” or
“How does this music make you feel?”**

**Tap, clap or move in time to music.
Try keeping rhythm patterns together using hands, spoons, or homemade instruments!**



Encourage your child to experiment with tuned or untuned instruments, or try free music-making apps online. Enjoy their performances at home – whether it’s a few notes on an instrument or a full song!

Enjoy a wide range of music – classical, jazz, pop, folk, world or film – and talk about what you notice.

