

# KS2 UPPER MUSIC CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS

Music in Upper Key Stage 2 encourages children to think like musicians. They perform with greater control, use formal notation, explore music from different eras and cultures, and compose more complex pieces that express mood and meaning.



## Children should:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate a wide variety of music.
- Sing and play with increasing accuracy, fluency, and expression.
- Improvise and compose music for specific purposes.
- Read, write and perform using standard notation.
- Learn about great composers and how music reflects history and culture.



### Use their voices creatively by:

- Singing songs in unison and harmony, controlling pitch and phrasing.
- Performing confidently for an audience.
- Exploring musical styles such as musical theatre, wartime songs, and gospel.



### Play Tuned and Untuned Instruments

- Perform pieces using notation and chord symbols.
- Play as part of an ensemble, maintaining rhythm and tempo.
- Explore structure and texture through orchestral and digital performance.



### Listen to a Range of Music

- Study composers such as Monteverdi, Handel, John Williams, and modern film composers.
- Compare pieces from different genres – Baroque, jazz, pop, and film music.
- Identify musical features such as theme, variation, dynamics, and texture.
- Discuss how music communicates stories or emotions.

### Use Musical Language Develop confidence using vocabulary such as:

- Notation, melody, harmony, dynamics, tempo, texture, structure.
- Recognise and describe the elements of music in detail.



### Create and Compose Music

- Compose pieces for instruments, voices or digital tools.
- Develop structure and harmony using repetition, contrast and variation.
- Explore film scores, pop compositions and performance pieces.
- Record, edit and refine their own music.



## Music helps children:

- Express identity, emotion and imagination.
- Appreciate music as a language that connects people and places.
- Build confidence, discipline and teamwork through performance.
- Develop a lifelong love of music and the arts.

# KS2U How can I help my child at home?

Sharing, listening and talking about music together helps your child develop confidence, creativity and a lifelong love of music.

*You don't need to be musical yourself!*



Try classical, rock, pop, film soundtracks or world music – talk about how each one sounds and feels.

Ask them to share songs, rhythms or melodies they've been exploring in school. Support them to practise singing or playing at home and celebrate their progress.



Try simple digital apps for composing or mixing sound, or experiment with rhythm loops and melodies.

Notice how music is used in films, adverts or games to create emotion and atmosphere.



Ask thoughtful questions  
“Why do you think the composer chose that sound?” or “What story do you think this music tells?”