



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

Music Programme of Study

Last updated: Sam O'Regan, July 2024 – based on the DfE Model Music Curriculum

Music is taught via class teachers and also music teachers from [Preludes Music](#) from Reception – Year Six

Somerdale ET staff primarily teach the singing and listening elements, with composing, musicianship, and performing taught by Preludes music teachers.

Purpose of Study

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high- quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.

Aims

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Curriculum Content for EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Year Group	Key Objectives
Pre-School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.• Remember and sing entire songs.• Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match').• Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) of familiar songs.• Create their own songs or improvise a song around one they know.• Listen with increased attention to sounds.• Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings.

'Learn Together to Live Together'

Equity Based

Aspirational

Collaborative

Child-Centred



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning to sing: both in a group and as a soloist, speaking chants and short phrases, using voices expressively• Learning about orchestral instruments families: strings, brass, woodwind, percussion• Playing instruments in a group: responding to hand signs, sense of purpose and enjoyment• Learning simple notation: playing along to percussion charts• Learning to play simple rhythms• Learning about different composers: e.g. Vivaldi, Haydn, Bartok• Adding sounds to a story• Listening to music: responding with actions or dance, talking about the music – what was it like, how did it feel?• Learning musical terms – pitch, dynamics, duration, structure, tempo, articulation, tonality, timbre• Performing in school
-----------	---

Year 1	
Singing	<p>Sing simple songs, chants and rhymes (e.g. <i>Boom Chicka Boom</i>) from memory, singing collectively and at the same pitch, responding to simple visual directions (e.g. stop, start, loud, quiet) and counting in.</p> <p>Begin with simple songs with a very small range, mi-so (e.g. <i>Hello, How are You</i>), and then slightly wider (e.g. <i>Bounce High, Bounce Low</i>). Include pentatonic songs (e.g. <i>Dr Knickerbocker</i>).</p> <p>Sing a wide range of call and response songs (e.g. <i>Pretty Trees Around the World</i> from <i>Rhythms of Childhood</i>), to control vocal pitch and to match the pitch they hear with accuracy.</p>
Listening	<p>The teaching of music is enriched by developing pupils' shared knowledge and understanding of the stories, origins, traditions, history and social context of the music they are listening to, singing and playing.</p> <p>Listening to recorded performances should be complemented by opportunities to experience live music making in and out of school. These could include performances by other school ensembles or year groups, or provided by other Music Education Hubs partners, which may include local or national ensembles.</p> <p>The pieces listed here are intended to give teachers a good start in terms of choosing music which is age-appropriate. They should not limit the imagination or creativity of the teacher in terms of seeking and using other musical examples, and further repertoire options are listed within the Appendix 2. Brief contextual information on each piece can be found in Appendix 3.</p> <p>Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs</p>



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

<p>Composing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvise simple vocal chants, using question and answer phrases. Create musical sound effects and short sequences of sounds in response to stimuli, e.g. a rainstorm or a train journey. Combine to make a story, choosing and playing classroom instruments (e.g. rainmaker) or sound-makers (e.g. rustling leaves). Understand the difference between creating a rhythm pattern and a pitch pattern. Invent, retain and recall rhythm and pitch patterns and perform these for others, taking turns. Use music technology, if available, to capture, change and combine sounds. Recognise how graphic notation can represent created sounds. Explore and invent own symbols, for example: <div data-bbox="432 560 1177 685"> </div>
<p>Musicianship: Pulse/beat, rhythm, pitch</p>	<p>Pulse/Beat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk, move or clap a steady beat with others, changing the speed of the beat as the tempo of the music changes. Use body percussion, (e.g. clapping, tapping, walking) and classroom percussion (shakers, sticks and blocks, etc.), playing repeated rhythm patterns (ostinati) and short, pitched patterns on tuned instruments (e.g. glockenspiels or chime bars) to maintain a steady beat. Respond to the pulse in recorded/live music through movement and dance, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stepping (e.g. <i>Mattachins</i> from <i>Capriol Suite</i> by Warlock), Jumping (e.g. <i>Trepak</i> from <i>The Nutcracker</i> by Tchaikovsky) Walking on tiptoes (e.g. <i>Scherzo</i> from <i>The Firebird Suite</i> by Stravinsky). <p>Rhythm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform short copycat rhythm patterns accurately, led by the teacher. Perform short repeating rhythm patterns (ostinati) while keeping in time with a steady beat. Perform word-pattern chants (e.g. ca-ter-pil-lar crawl, fish and chips); create, retain and perform their own rhythm patterns. <div data-bbox="459 1205 1015 1321"> </div> <p>Pitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to sounds in the local school environment, comparing high and low sounds. Sing familiar songs in both low and high voices and talk about the difference in sound. Explore percussion sounds to enhance storytelling, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ascending xylophone notes to suggest Jack climbing the beanstalk, quiet sounds created on a rainstick/shakers to depict a shower, regular strong beats played on a drum to replicate menacing footsteps. Follow pictures and symbols to guide singing and playing, e.g. 4 dots = 4 taps on the drum. <div data-bbox="641 1612 909 1727"> </div>

‘Learn Together to Live Together’

Equity Based

Aspirational

Child-Centred

Collaborative



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

Year 2	
Singing	<p>Singing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sing songs regularly with a pitch range of do-so with increasing vocal control. Sing songs with a small pitch range (e.g. <i>Rain, Rain Go Away</i>), pitching accurately. Know the meaning of dynamics (loud/quiet) and tempo (fast/slow) and be able to demonstrate these when singing by responding to (a) the leader's directions and (b) visual symbols (e.g. crescendo, decrescendo, pause) <p>Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs</p>
Listening	<p>The teaching and learning of music is enriched by developing pupils' shared knowledge and understanding of the stories, origins, traditions, history and social context of the music they are listening to, singing and playing.</p> <p>Listening to recorded performances should be complemented by opportunities to experience live music making in and out of school. These could include performances by other school ensembles or year groups, or performances provided by other Music Education Hubs partners, which may include local or national ensembles.</p> <p>The pieces listed here are intended to give teachers a good start in terms of choosing music which is age-appropriate. It should not limit the imagination or creativity of the</p> <p>Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs</p>
Composing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create music in response to a non-musical stimulus (e.g. a storm, a car race, or a rocket launch). Work with a partner to improvise simple question and answer phrases, to be sung and played on untuned percussion, creating a musical conversation. Use graphic symbols, dot notation and stick notation, as appropriate, to keep a record of composed pieces. Use music technology, if available, to capture, change and combine sounds.
Musicianship: Pulse/beat, rhythm, pitch	<p>Pulse/Beat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand that the speed of the beat can change, creating a faster or slower pace (tempo). Mark the beat of a listening piece (e.g. <i>Bolero</i> by Ravel) by tapping or clapping and recognising tempo as well as changes in tempo. Walk in time to the beat of a piece of music or song (e.g. <i>La Mousique</i> by Susato). Know the difference between left and right to support coordination and shared movement with others. Begin to group beats in twos and threes by tapping knees on the first (strongest) beat and clapping the remaining beats. Identify the beat groupings in familiar music that they sing regularly and listen to, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in 2 <i>Maple Leaf Rag</i> by Joplin in 3 <i>The Elephant from Carnival of the Animals</i> by Saint-Saëns <p>Rhythm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play copycat rhythms, copying a leader, and invent rhythms for others to copy on untuned percussion. Create rhythms using word phrases as a starting point (e.g. Hel-lo Si-mon or Can you come and play?). Read and respond to chanted rhythm patterns, and represent them with stick notation including crotchets, quavers and crotchets rests. Create and perform their own chanted rhythm patterns with the same stick notation.

'Learn Together to Live Together'

Equity Based

Aspirational

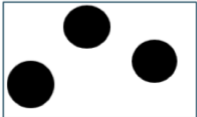
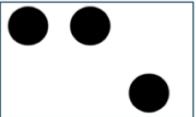
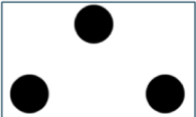
Child-Centred

Collaborative



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

	<p>Pitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play a range of singing games based on the cuckoo interval (so-mi, e.g. <i>Little Sally Saucer</i>) matching voices accurately, supported by a leader playing the melody. The melody could be played on a piano, acoustic instrument or backing track. • Sing short phrases independently within a singing game or short song. • Respond independently to pitch changes heard in short melodic phrases, indicating with actions (e.g. stand up/sit down, hands high/hands low). • Recognise dot notation and match it to 3-note tunes played on tuned percussion, for example: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">    </div>
--	---

Year 3	
Singing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing a widening range of unison songs of varying styles and structures with a pitch range of do-so (e.g. <i>Extreme Weather</i>), tunelessly and with expression. Perform forte and piano, loud and soft. • Perform actions confidently and in time to a range of action songs (e.g. <i>Heads and Shoulders</i>). • Walk, move or clap a steady beat with others, changing the speed of the beat as the tempo of the music changes. • Perform as a choir in school assemblies. <p>This list of repertoire is intended to give teachers a good start in terms of choosing music for Year 3 and to highlight music which is age-appropriate. It should not limit the imagination and creativity of the teacher in terms of seeking and using other musical examples.</p> <p>Good repertoire for this age group includes:</p> <p>Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs</p>
Listening	<p>The teaching and learning of music is enriched by developing pupils' shared knowledge and understanding of the stories, origins, traditions, history and social context of the music they are listening to, singing and playing.</p> <p>Listening to recorded performances should be complemented by opportunities to experience live music making in and out of school. These could include performances by other school ensembles or year groups, or provided by other Music Education Hubs partners, which may include local or national ensembles.</p> <p>Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs</p>
Composing	<p>Improvise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become more skilled in improvising (using voices, tuned and untuned percussion and instruments played in whole-class/group/individual/instrumental teaching), inventing short 'on-the-spot' responses using a limited note-range.

'Learn Together to Live Together'

Equity Based

Aspirational

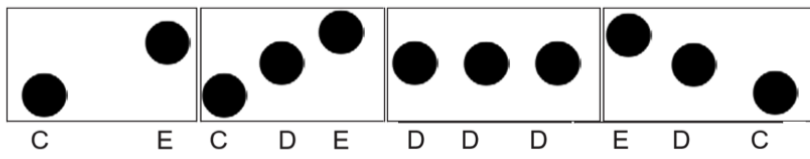
Child-Centred

Collaborative



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure musical ideas (e.g. using echo or question and answer phrases) to create music that has a beginning, middle and end. Pupils should compose in response to different stimuli, e.g. stories, verse, images (paintings and photographs) and musical sources. <p>Compose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combine known rhythmic notation with letter names to create rising and falling phrases using just three notes (do, re and mi). Compose song accompaniments on untuned percussion using known rhythms and note values.
Performing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop facility in playing tuned percussion or a melodic instrument such as violin or recorder. Play and perform melodies following staff notation using a small range (e.g. Middle C–E/do–mi) as a whole class or in small groups (e.g. trios and quartets). Use listening skills to correctly order phrases using dot notation, showing different arrangements of notes C-D-E/do-re-mi (see illustration):  <p>Individually (solo) copy stepwise melodic phrases with accuracy at different speeds; allegro and adagio, fast and slow. Extend to question-and-answer phrases.</p> <p>Reading Notation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the stave, lines and spaces, and clef. Use dot notation to show higher or lower pitch. Introduce and understand the differences between crotchets and paired quavers. Apply word chants to rhythms, understanding how to link each syllable to one musical note.

Year 4	
Singing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to sing a broad range of unison songs with the range of an octave (do–do) (e.g. One More Day—a traditional sea shanty) pitching the voice accurately and following directions for getting louder (crescendo) and quieter (decrescendo). Sing rounds and partner songs in different time signatures (2, 3 and 4 time) (e.g. Our Dustbin) and begin to sing repertoire with small and large leaps as well as a simple second part to introduce vocal harmony (e.g. Hear the Wind). Perform a range of songs in school assemblies. <p>Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs</p>

‘Learn Together to Live Together’

Equity Based

Aspirational

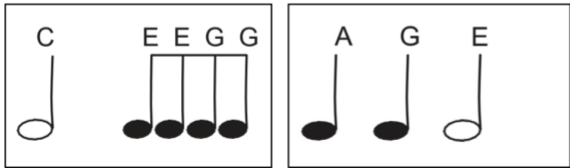
Child-Centred

Collaborative



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

Listening	<p>The teaching of music is enriched by developing pupils' shared knowledge and understanding of the stories, origins, traditions, history and social context of the music they are listening to, singing and playing.</p> <p>Listening to recorded performances should be complemented by opportunities to experience live music making in and out of school. These could include performances by other school ensembles or year groups, or provided by other Music Education Hubs partners, which may include local or national ensembles.</p> <p>Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs</p>
Composing	<p>Improvise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvise on a limited range of pitches on the instrument they are now learning, making use of musical features including smooth (legato) and detached (staccato). • Begin to make compositional decisions about the overall structure of improvisations. Continue this process in the composition tasks below. <p>Compose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine known rhythmic notation with letter names to create short pentatonic phrases using a limited range of 5 pitches suitable for the instruments being learnt. Sing and play these phrases as self-standing compositions. • Arrange individual notation cards of known note values (i.e. minim, crotchet, crotchet rest and paired quavers) to create sequences of 2-, 3- or 4-beat phrases, arranged into bars. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore developing knowledge of musical components by composing music to create a specific mood, for example creating music to accompany a short film clip. • Introduce major and minor chords. • Include instruments played in whole-class/group/individual teaching to expand the scope and range of the sound palette available for composition work. • Capture and record creative ideas using any of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ graphic symbols ◦ rhythm notation and time signatures ◦ staff notation ◦ technology.
Performing	<p>Instrumental Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop facility in the basic skills of a selected musical instrument over a sustained learning period. This can be achieved through working closely with your local Music Education Hub who can provide whole-class instrumental teaching programmes. • Play and perform melodies following staff notation using a small range (e.g. Middle C–G/do–so) as a whole-class or in small groups. • Perform in two or more parts (e.g. melody and accompaniment or a duet) from simple notation using instruments played in whole class teaching. Identify static and moving parts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy short melodic phrases including those using the pentatonic scale (e.g. C, D, E, G, A).

'Learn Together to Live Together'

Equity Based

Aspirational

Child-Centred

Collaborative



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

Reading Notation

- Introduce and understand the differences between minims, crotchets, paired quavers and rests.
- Read and perform pitch notation within a defined range (e.g. C–G/do–so).
- Follow and perform simple rhythmic **scores** to a steady beat: maintain individual parts accurately within the rhythmic **texture**, achieving a sense of ensemble.

Year 5

Singing

- Sing a broad range of songs from an extended repertoire with a sense of ensemble and performance. This should include observing phrasing, accurate pitching and appropriate style.
- Sing **three-part** rounds, **partner songs**, and songs with a **verse and a chorus**.
- Perform a range of songs in school assemblies and in school performance opportunities.

[Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs](#)

Listening

The teaching of music is enriched by developing pupils' shared knowledge and understanding of the stories, origins, traditions, history and social context of the music they are listening to, singing and playing.

Listening to recorded performances should be complemented by opportunities to experience live music making in and out of school. These could include performances by other school ensembles or year groups, or provided by other Music Education Hubs partners, which may include local or national ensembles.

[Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs](#)

Composing

Improvise

- **Improvise** freely over a **drone**, developing sense of shape and character, using **tuned percussion** and melodic instruments.
- Improvise over a simple **groove**, responding to the **beat**, creating a satisfying melodic shape; experiment with using a wider range of **dynamics**, including very loud (**fortissimo**), very quiet (**pianissimo**), moderately loud (**mezzo forte**), and moderately quiet (**mezzo piano**). Continue this process in the composition tasks below.

'Learn Together to Live Together'

Equity Based

Aspirational
Collaborative

Child-Centred



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

	<p>Compose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compose melodies made from pairs of phrases in either C major or A minor or a key suitable for the instrument chosen. These melodies can be enhanced with rhythmic or chordal accompaniment.• Working in pairs, compose a short ternary piece.• Use chords to compose music to evoke a specific atmosphere, mood or environment. For example, <i>La Mer</i> by Debussy and <i>The River Flows In You</i> by Yiruma both evoke images of water. Equally, pupils might create music to accompany a silent film or to set a scene in a play or book.• Capture and record creative ideas using any of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ graphic symbols◦ rhythm notation and time signatures◦ staff notation◦ technology.
Performing	<p>Instrumental Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play melodies on tuned percussion, melodic instruments or keyboards, following staff notation written on one staff and using notes within the Middle C–C'/do–do range. This should initially be done as a whole class with greater independence gained each lesson through smaller group performance.• Understand how triads are formed, and play them on tuned percussion, melodic instruments or keyboards. Perform simple, chordal accompaniments to familiar songs (e.g. <i>Yellow Submarine</i> by The Beatles).• Perform a range of repertoire pieces and arrangements combining acoustic instruments to form mixed ensembles, including a school orchestra.• Develop the skill of playing by ear on tuned instruments, copying longer phrases and familiar melodies. <p>Reading Notation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further understand the differences between semibreves, minims, crotchets and crotchet rests, paired quavers and semiquavers.• Understand the differences between 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures.• Read and perform pitch notation within an octave (e.g. C–C'/do–do).• Read and play short rhythmic phrases at sight from prepared cards, using conventional symbols for known rhythms and note durations.

‘Learn Together to Live Together’

Equity Based

Aspirational

Collaborative

Child-Centred



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Curriculum Information

Year 6	
Singing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sing a broad range of songs, including those that involve syncopated rhythms, as part of a choir, with a sense of ensemble and performance. This should include observing rhythm, phrasing, accurate pitching and appropriate style.• Continue to sing three- and four-part rounds (e.g. <i>Calypso</i> by Jan Holdstock) or partner songs, and experiment with positioning singers randomly within the group – i.e. no longer in discrete parts – in order to develop greater listening skills, balance between parts and vocal independence.• Perform a range of songs as a choir in school assemblies, school performance opportunities and to a wider audience. <p>Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs</p>
Listening	<p>The teaching and learning of music is enriched by developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of the stories, origins, traditions, history and social context of the music they are listening to, singing and playing.</p> <p>Listening to recorded performances should be complemented by opportunities to experience live music making in and out of school. These could include performances by other school ensembles or year groups, or provided by other Music Education Hubs partners, which may include local or national ensembles.</p> <p>Click here for DfE model with suggestions of songs</p>
Composing	<p>Improvise</p> <p>Extend improvisation skills through working in small groups to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create music with multiple sections that include repetition and contrast.• Use chord changes as part of an improvised sequence.• Extend improvised melodies beyond 8 beats over a fixed groove, creating a satisfying melodic shape. <p>Compose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan and compose an 8- or 16-beat melodic phrase using the pentatonic scale (e.g. C, D, E, G, A) and incorporate rhythmic variety and interest. Play this melody on available tuned percussion and/or orchestral instruments. Notate this melody.• Compose melodies made from pairs of phrases in either G major or E minor or a key suitable for the instrument chosen.• Either of these melodies can be enhanced with rhythmic or chordal accompaniment.• Compose a ternary piece; use available music software/apps to create and record it, discussing how musical contrasts are achieved.

'Learn Together to Live Together'

Equity Based

Aspirational

Child-Centred

Collaborative



Performing	<p>Instrumental Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play a melody following staff notation written on one stave and using notes within an octave range (do–do); make decisions about dynamic range, including very loud (<i>ff</i>), very quiet (<i>pp</i>), moderately loud (<i>mf</i>) and moderately quiet (<i>mp</i>).• Accompany this same melody, and others, using block chords or a bass line. This could be done using keyboards, tuned percussion or tablets, or demonstrated at the board using an online keyboard.• Engage with others through ensemble playing (e.g. school orchestra, band, mixed ensemble) with pupils taking on melody or accompaniment roles. The accompaniment, if instrumental, could be chords or a single-note bass line. <p>Reading Notation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further understand the differences between semibreves, minims, crotchets, quavers and semiquavers, and their equivalent rests.• Further develop the skills to read and perform pitch notation within an octave (e.g. C–C/ do–do).• Read and play confidently from rhythm notation cards and rhythmic scores in up to 4 parts that contain known rhythms and note durations.• Read and play from notation a four-bar phrase, confidently identifying note names and durations.
------------	---