

Foundations of Music: Elements, Performance and Composition

Module/Unit of Learning	Taught During	What will students learn?	How does this help to build a broad and strong foundation?	Links to other Subjects
The Building Blocks of Music	September – December	<p>Students explore the core musical elements, including pitch, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, texture, structure and timbre. They develop their ability to perform simple melodies and chord patterns using keyboard, voice and classroom instruments.</p> <p>They also begin composing short musical ideas, applying the inter-related dimensions to shape mood and expression while learning early rehearsal routines such as accuracy, timing and peer feedback.</p>	<p>This unit builds essential listening, performance and composition foundations.</p> <p>It strengthens students' confidence with musical vocabulary, prepares them for more independent composition later in KS3 and supports secure understanding of the building blocks underpinning all musical study.</p>	<p>Music Theory / Maths – counting beats, pattern recognition, simple fractions in rhythm</p> <p>English – descriptive and analytical language for evaluating music</p> <p>Drama – confidence in performance and control of expression</p>
Time Signatures and the Pentatonic Scale	January – March	<p>Students develop their understanding of simple and compound time signatures through practical rhythm work and ensemble tasks.</p> <p>They explore the pentatonic scale, using it to create melodic patterns and short compositions.</p> <p>They also learn a range of basic compositional devices and refine their ability to rehearse, revise and improve ideas with increasing musical control.</p>	<p>This unit strengthens rhythmic fluency and supports secure melodic construction skills.</p> <p>It prepares students for more sophisticated composition and improvisation work by developing accuracy, musical decision-making and ensemble awareness.</p>	<p>Maths – simple and compound metre, grouping beats</p> <p>English – applying subject terminology in written and verbal responses</p>
Sweet Soul Music	April – July	<p>Students study key features of Soul music, including chord progressions, expressive performance techniques and stylistic characteristics.</p> <p>They perform Soul-inspired pieces, focusing on rhythm, vocal delivery and ensemble balance.</p> <p>They also build their composition skills by arranging and creating short Soul-style pieces, using chords, melody, structure and expressive devices with growing independence.</p>	<p>This unit introduces genre-based study and deepens understanding of harmony and performance style.</p> <p>It prepares students for later work on musical genres and more complex ensemble performance by developing confidence, expressive control and stylistic awareness.</p>	<p>History – African American musical heritage and social context</p> <p>English – analysing themes, messages and emotional impact</p> <p>Drama – expressive communication and performance discipline</p>