

KEY MUSIC VOCABULARY

Sing Up progression | Reception to Year 6

Reception

KEY WORD	CHILD-FRIENDLY MEANING
Beat / pulse	The steady beat of the music.
Fast / slow	Whether the music moves quickly or slowly (tempo).
Loud / quiet	How loud or soft the music is (dynamics).
High / low	Whether a sound or note is high or low (pitch).
Sound	Something we hear, made by a voice or instrument.
Voice	Using our voices to sing, chant or make sounds.
Instrument	An object used to make music.
Rhythm	A pattern of sounds and silences.
Action	A movement that responds to the music.
Song structure	The way a song is organised; begin to notice repeated sections.
Rhyme	Words that have similar ending sounds.
Timbre	The quality or character of a sound.

Year 1

KEY WORD	CHILD-FRIENDLY MEANING
Beat / pulse	The steady beat of a song; show it by clapping, tapping or moving.
Rhythm	The pattern made by sounds and silences.
Tempo	The speed of the music: fast or slow.
Dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.
Pitch	How high or low a note sounds.
Timbre	The quality of a sound, e.g. smooth, scratchy, clicking or ringing.
Pitched / unpitched	Pitched sounds have notes that can be high or low; unpitched sounds do not have a clear note.
Call and response	One singer or group performs a musical idea and another answers.
Echo	Copying a rhythm, sound or musical phrase.
Crotchet	A one-beat note, introduced through the 'walk' action.
Quavers	Two quicker notes often fitted into one beat, introduced through the 'jogging' action.
Rest	A planned silence in music.
Graphic score	A picture or set of symbols showing what sounds to play.
Structure	The order of sections or ideas in a piece of music.
Steady beat	A regular pulse that stays even.

Year 2

KEY WORD	CHILD-FRIENDLY MEANING
Beat / pulse	The steady pulse in music; keep it while singing, moving or playing.
Rhythm	A pattern of long and short sounds and silences.
Tempo	The speed of the music; notice changes in speed.
Dynamics	The volume of the music; it can get louder or quieter.
Pitch	How high or low a note sounds; notice notes moving up or down.
Timbre	The distinctive quality of a sound or instrument.
Crotchet	A note represented in the Sing Up materials through the 'walk' action.
Quavers	Quicker notes represented through the 'jogging' action.
Crotchet rest	A one-beat silence.
Ostinato	A short musical pattern repeated over and over.
Call and response	A musical question and answer between a leader and a group.
Melody	A sequence of notes that makes the tune.
Accompaniment	Music played or sung to support a melody or song.
Tuned / untuned percussion	Percussion instruments that can play different notes / percussion instruments without a definite pitch.
Graphic symbols / score	Pictures or symbols used to represent sounds or musical ideas.
Verse / chorus	Sections of a song; the chorus is usually repeated.

Year 3

KEY WORD	CHILD-FRIENDLY MEANING
Beat / pulse	The steady pulse that music is organised around.
Rhythm	A pattern of sounds and silences.
Crotchet	A note with the duration of one beat in the materials studied.
Quavers	Two quicker notes often performed within one beat.
Crotchet rest	A one-beat silence.
Duration	How long or short a musical sound lasts.
Pitch	How high or low a note sounds; use and recognise C–D–E.
Melody	A sequence of notes forming a tune.
Pentatonic scale	A scale made of five notes; used for composing and improvising.
Ostinato	A repeated musical pattern.
Call and response	A musical phrase followed by an answering phrase.
Accompaniment	A supporting musical part played with a song or melody.
Tempo	The speed of the music.
Dynamics	Changes in loudness and softness.
Timbre	The quality of a sound, helping us distinguish instruments and voices.
Graphic score	A visual way to show sounds or musical ideas.
Folk song	A song associated with the people and traditions of a particular place.

Year 4

KEY WORD	CHILD-FRIENDLY MEANING
Beat / pulse	The regular pulse of the music.
Rhythm	A pattern of sounds and silences, organised in time.
Duration	The length of notes and silences.
Crotchet / quavers / crotchet rest	Rhythm durations used to create and read patterns.
Pitch	How high or low a note sounds.
Melody	A sequence of notes forming a tune.
Pentatonic scale	A five-note scale used for improvising and composing.
Ostinato	A repeated rhythm or musical pattern.
Drone	A sustained or repeated note underneath a melody.
Texture	How musical layers or parts fit together.
Timbre	The character or quality of a sound.
Dynamics	How loud or quiet music is; changes can shape a piece.
Tempo	The speed of the music.
Graphic score	A visual representation of sounds or musical parts.
Structure	How musical ideas are organised into sections.
Question and answer phrasing	A musical idea followed by a responding idea.
Ternary form	A musical structure with three sections, often A–B–A.

Year 5

KEY WORD	CHILD-FRIENDLY MEANING
Beat / pulse	The steady pulse of the music.
Rhythm	Patterns of sounds and silences.
Syncopation	Rhythms that place emphasis away from the expected strong beats.
Duration	How long or short notes and silences last.
Crotchet / quavers / minim / semiquaver	Note values used to describe different durations.
Dynamics	Changes in loudness, including forte (loud), piano (quiet), crescendo (gradually louder) and diminuendo (gradually quieter).
Tempo	The speed of music; terms include accelerando (gradually faster) and ritenuto (holding back or slowing).
Pitch	How high or low a sound is.
Melody	A sequence of notes forming a tune.
Pentatonic scale	A five-note scale used for improvisation and composition.
Harmony	Different notes sounding together to support a melody.
Drone	A sustained or repeated note underneath a melody.
Bassline	A low musical part that supports the music.
Riff	A short, repeated musical idea or pattern.
Ostinato	A repeated musical pattern.
Fanfare	A short, bold musical piece or phrase, often ceremonial.
Timbre	The distinctive quality of a sound or instrument.
Texture	How many musical layers there are and how they combine.
Ensemble	A group performing music together.
Sea shanty	A traditional work song associated with sailors.

Year 6

KEY WORD	CHILD-FRIENDLY MEANING
Beat / pulse	The steady pulse of the music.
Rhythm	A pattern of sounds and silences.
Syncopation	Emphasis placed on unexpected parts of the beat.
Crotchet / quavers / minim / semiquaver	Note values describing the duration of sounds.
Tempo	The speed of music.
Dynamics	Changes in loudness, including forte, piano, crescendo and diminuendo.
Pitch	How high or low a note sounds.
Melody	A sequence of notes forming a tune.
Harmony	Notes sounding together to support or enrich a melody.
Texture	How different musical parts or layers combine, including parts moving together or independently.
Structure	How a piece is organised into sections.
Verse / chorus	Common sections of a song; verses often change words and the chorus usually returns.
Ternary form	A three-part structure, often A–B–A.
Rondo form	A structure in which a main section returns between contrasting sections; the Sing Up materials include A–B–A–C–A.
Bassline	A low musical part that supports the harmony and rhythm.
Riff	A short, memorable musical pattern that is repeated.
Ostinato	A repeated musical pattern.
Pentatonic scale	A five-note scale used in improvisation and composition.
Chord	Two or more different notes played together in the musical context of this progression.
Triad	A chord made from three notes.
C major triad	The notes C, E and G played together.
Syncopated melody	A melody that uses syncopated rhythms.
Articulation	The way notes are played or sung, such as detached or smooth.
Homophonic texture	Musical parts moving together in the same rhythm or supporting a main melody.
Polyphonic texture	Two or more independent musical parts sounding together.
Legato	Smoothly connected notes.
Forte / piano	Musical terms meaning loud / quiet.
Crescendo / diminuendo	Gradually getting louder / gradually getting quieter.
Accelerando / ritenuto	Gradually getting faster / holding back or slowing down.
Gamelan / kecak	Balinese musical traditions explored in the Sing Up progression.

Whole-school vocabulary to revisit

KEY WORD	CHILD-FRIENDLY MEANING
Beat / pulse	The steady beat we can tap, clap or move to.
Rhythm	The pattern of sounds and silences.
Tempo	The speed of the music.
Dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.
Pitch	How high or low a note sounds.
Timbre	The quality or character of a sound.
Melody	The tune: a sequence of notes.
Structure	The way a piece of music is organised.
Composition	Music that has been created or put together.
Performance	Singing or playing music for others.
Listen and appraise	Listen carefully and describe what we hear using musical vocabulary.