

Music Vocabulary

| EYFS | | Key Stage 1 | | Lower Key Stage 2 | | Upper Key Stage 2 | |
|------------|---|-------------|--|-------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| beat | the heart of the music that you can clap to | pulse | the steady walk of the music like footsteps | notation | music written down with symbols to show sound and silence | harmony | two or more notes played that sound nice together |
| sing | making music with your voice | rhythm | the pattern of long and short sounds | duration | how long a note lasts | chord | three or more notes played at the same time |
| instrument | something you play to make music | pitch | how high or low a note sounds | structure | the way the music is organised | key | the set of notes a piece of music is built on |
| silence | when it is completely quiet | tempo | the speed of the music | texture | how different sounds fit together | syncopation | when the rhythm surprises us by putting sounds off the main beat |
| repeat | doing the same sound again | melody/tune | the part of the music you can hum or sing | scale | a set of notes in order going up or down | polyrhythm | two or more different rhythms at the same time |
| music | sounds put together that we enjoy | pattern | a sound or rhythm that happens again and again | dynamics | how music gets louder, softer, or changes in volume | round | when the same tune is played at different times |
| fast/slow | how quickly the music goes | verse | the part of a song that tells the story | timbre | the 'colour' of a sound, how a trumpet is different to a guitar | motif | a short music idea that comes back again |
| high/low | if the sound is squeaky like a bird or deep like a drum | performance | when you share music by playing for others | ensemble | a group of people playing or singing together | score | the written music showing all the parts together |
| | | | | conductor | the person who leads the group and shows when to keep in time | composition | making your own piece of music |
| | | | | improvisation | making up music as you go, without planning it first | interpretation | deciding how to perform music to show feeling and expression |
| | | | | pentatonic | a scale made up of 5 notes | allegro | a term that means music should be played fast and lively |
| | | | | | | crescendo | when the music gradually gets louder |