

Newfield Park Primary School

Core Vocabulary Progression: Music

Below are the core vocabulary lists for Music

They give examples of the subject specific vocabulary that children will use and become familiar with during each key stage, reflecting their increasing knowledge, breadth and depth of experience and can be used across a range of topic areas. They are not intended to be used to test pupils but give an indication of the language and terms used by staff in lessons and across units of learning to broaden vocabulary and understanding.

EYFS	YEARS 1&2	YEARS 3&4	YEARS 5&6
<p>beat – unit of rhythm</p> <p>chant – singing in unison, with a similar rhythm to speech</p> <p>choir – group of singers</p> <p>orchestra – a large group of instruments, usually classical</p> <p>tempo – speed of a piece</p>	<p>crescendo – getting louder</p> <p>decrescendo – getting quieter</p> <p>drone – monotonous tone</p> <p>duet – two vocalists or instruments</p> <p>harmony – pleasing combination of two or more notes, played in background behind melody</p> <p>pulse – the constant beat in a piece of music</p> <p>rest – moment when a note is not played for a defined length of time</p> <p>rhythm – structured groups of accented and unaccented beats</p> <p>staff – five horizontal lines on which notes are written</p>	<p>bar – a regular section on a staff, separated by vertical lines</p> <p>chord – 2 or more notes (usually 3) played simultaneously in harmony</p> <p>clef – a symbol on written music, defining what pitch to play the note</p> <p>downbeat – first beat in a bar</p> <p>dynamics – how loud or quiet a piece of music is</p> <p>ensemble – all instruments in an orchestra or all voices in a choir, playing at once</p> <p>flat – playing a note a semitone lower than the written one</p> <p>forte – loud</p> <p>notation – a method of writing music</p> <p>scale – successive notes of a key, ascending or descending</p> <p>sharp – note to be raised by a semitone</p> <p>staccato – short, sharp notes</p> <p>unison – playing or singing the same notes simultaneously</p>	<p>accent – where the music is emphasised</p> <p>canon – tune that is repeated at regular intervals by different performers, but with different starting times</p> <p>chord progression – string of chords played in succession, usually a pattern</p> <p>dissonance – harsh sounds, chords not in harmony</p> <p>key – system of notes based on a key note</p> <p>key signature – the flats and sharps at the beginning of each line, to be played throughout the piece</p> <p>major – a happy sounding piece of music</p> <p>measure – a bar in a piece of music</p> <p>minor – a sad sounding piece of music</p> <p>octave – 8 full tones above the key note. Start and end of a scale</p> <p>off beat – the unaccented beat</p> <p>slur – a curve over notes, suggesting that it is slurred together</p> <p>time signature – how many beats to a bar</p> <p>vibrato – quickly alternating between two notes – a wobbly sound</p>