

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