Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Area: Music Year: 8

Year 8 Curriculum:

Autumn Term: Blues

During this unit, pupils explore Blues music alongside a variety of percussion traditions, including Samba and African drumming. Pupils develop their ensemble performance skills by listening, rehearsing and creating their own group performances. They study the cultural background of these genres and apply key musical elements such as rhythm and texture in practical work. Pupils also begin to use notation to support their understanding and performance.

Focus piece:

- *In the Mood – Glenn Miller*

Spring Term: World

Pupils explore rhythmic structures from global traditions, including African and Latin-American music. They develop their ability to perform syncopated rhythms and work collaboratively to compose and perform group pieces using a range of percussion instruments. Pupils continue to build their listening and appraisal skills by evaluating how rhythm is used in different musical contexts.

Focus piece:

- *Mas Que Nada – Sergio Mendes*

Summer Term: Reggae

Pupils explore harmony through Reggae, learning to play major and minor chords and typical chord progressions on the keyboard. They revisit and develop their keyboard skills while performing well-known riffs and patterns. Pupils also explore lyrics and the cultural context of the genre, developing a deeper understanding of its influences and meaning.

Focus piece:

- *Three Little Birds – Bob Marley*

Links to National Curriculum

- Perform on instruments and through singing, both individually and in groups
- Create their own music, including rhythms, melodies and chord progressions
- Listen to and explore music from a variety of cultures and traditions
- Work as part of an ensemble, developing teamwork and confidence
- Playing instruments such as keyboards and percussion
- Understanding how music works (rhythm, melody, harmony and structure)
- Reading and using basic musical notation
- Listening carefully and discussing music using appropriate vocabulary

Knowledge and understanding of this curriculum will be assessed by:

Assessment in Key Stage 3 music combines practical performance with ongoing checks of musical knowledge and understanding through listening tasks, questioning and short written responses. May include:

- Retrieval quizzes
- Listening questions
- Performance assessments based on accuracy, effort in practice and difficulty
- Audio recordings of practice performances and final performances

Powerful Knowledge/Cultural Capital Opportunities

Through the music curriculum, pupils will:

- Explore music from around the world, including Blues, African drumming, Latin music and Reggae
- Learn about influential musicians such as Bob Marley and Glenn Miller
- Understand the cultural and historical background of different musical styles
- Develop an appreciation of diverse musical traditions and their influence on modern music
- Build confidence performing in front of others and sharing their work