



# **Micklands Primary School**

## **Music Curriculum Syllabus**

### **Our Intent**

At Micklands, we believe music is a joyful and vital form of expression that helps children connect with themselves and the world. Our music curriculum builds confidence, creativity and curiosity through singing, listening, composing and performing.

Children will explore a broad range of musical genres, traditions and styles from around the world. They will develop their musical knowledge and skills progressively, learning to read and write notation, listen with attention, compose purposefully, and perform with control and expression.

Music at Micklands is inclusive, reflective and expressive. Through practical and engaging lessons, children experience music as a collaborative art form that enhances wellbeing, strengthens memory, and celebrates diversity.

#### **Look out for:**

- Singing assemblies, performances and class concerts
- Composing and improvising with tuned and untuned instruments
- Digital music tools and composition software
- Links to history, geography, English and PSHE
- Climate-themed compositions and eco-conscious song-writing

Encourage your child to sing, listen to music together at home, and share the joy of musical creativity!

### **Content and Structure**

Music is taught through four units per year group, with a clear sequence that builds skills and knowledge across the following key areas:

- **Listening and Appraising**
- **Performing and Singing**
- **Improvising and Composing**
- **Notation and Structure**

Each unit deepens understanding of musical elements such as pulse, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure. Learning is practical, engaging and inclusive, with regular chances to revisit and apply knowledge.

## Curriculum Progression

Year	Units	Key Learning and Skills
<b>EYFS</b>	Continuous music-making through play and routines	Explore sounds; use singing and instruments to express feelings; respond to music through movement and story; begin to keep a steady beat and copy simple rhythms
<b>Y1</b>	Pulse and Rhythm, Pitch and Performance, Exploring Sounds, Musical Stories	Keep a steady beat; recognise and explore high/low sounds; perform simple rhythms; respond to music with movement and instruments; explore instruments and symbols
<b>Y2</b>	Musical Patterns, Exploring Instruments, Weather Sounds, Story Compositions	Identify rhythm and pitch patterns; use tuned and untuned percussion; compose short sound sequences; begin reading simple notation; perform with control and dynamics
<b>Y3</b>	Body Percussion and Rhythm, Singing Games, Graphic Scores, Musical Landscapes	Use rhythm grids and graphic scores; develop ensemble skills; sing in rounds; perform layered rhythms; compose music inspired by nature and movement
<b>Y4</b>	Music Notation and Percussion, Melody and Ostinato, Soundscapes, Musical Structures	Read and write staff notation; perform ostinato patterns; structure compositions; explore texture and dynamics; use percussion and melody in layered compositions
<b>Y5</b>	Jazz and Blues, Samba and Rhythm, Space Compositions, Songwriting	Compose using blues scales and chord progressions; perform syncopated rhythms; structure extended pieces; use musical elements expressively; write and perform original songs
<b>Y6</b>	Baroque Music, Canon and Ground Bass, Songwriting and Performance, Leavers' Song	Improvise and compose in Baroque styles; read full staff notation; perform canons and ostinato; write meaningful lyrics; create and perform leavers' songs with melody and harmony

## Link to Climate Change Education

Each year group in KS1 and 2 includes **explicit and implicit opportunities** to connect art with environmental awareness:

Year	Unit Focus	Link to Climate Education
<b>Y1</b>	Pulse and Rhythm, Pitch and Performance, Exploring Sounds, Musical Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports awareness of sustainable choices and encourages upcycling through creative reuse. Reinforces that we can make music using found or reused objects instead of always purchasing new materials.</li> <li>Encourages early awareness of sustainability in everyday contexts—such as housing—and connects rhythmic phrases with real-world environmental thinking. Helps children see that music can help us explore big ideas creatively.</li> <li>Builds environmental awareness through imaginative role-play and musical exploration. Helps children connect music to real-world concerns and envision positive action through creative expression.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduces empathy for marine life and raises awareness of ocean threats through music and movement. Encourages symbolic thinking and musical storytelling about real-world environmental issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Y2</b>	Musical Patterns, Exploring Instruments, Weather Sounds, Story Compositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourages empathy and awareness of endangered animals. Helps children connect music with the idea of protecting wildlife and respecting the environment.</li> <li>Encourages children to imagine environmental change through music. Builds empathy for nature and introduces forest conservation as part of the story context.</li> <li>Encourages creative thinking about environmental action. Helps children express ideas about climate and nature through rhythm and musical structure.</li> <li>Encourages creative expression of nature through melody. Supports an emotional and artistic connection to the natural world, laying foundations for sustainable thinking.</li> </ul>
<b>Y3</b>	Body Percussion and Rhythm, Singing Games, Graphic Scores, Musical Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This approach uses empathy and creative storytelling to explore environmental concerns through music. It allows children to use lyrics as a way to raise awareness and express emotional responses to ecological issues.</li> <li>Introduces the idea that human journeys, both past and present, are affected by the environment. Encourages empathy and awareness of nature's power and changing climate through sound and rhythm.</li> <li>Encourages children to empathise with nature through melody. Helps them explore how music can reflect and express environmental issues and supports creative thinking about sustainability.</li> <li>Helps children reflect on how the environment is changing and explore these ideas emotionally through music. It also encourages empathy and creativity when thinking about the effects of pollution.</li> </ul>
<b>Y4</b>	Music Notation and Percussion, Melody and Ostinato, Soundscapes, Musical Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helps children emotionally connect with rainforest habitats and understand the impact of deforestation. Musical contrast supports deeper reflection on environmental loss.</li> <li>Supports children in reflecting on how human actions affect the environment. Reinforces that music can communicate change and emotion, encouraging expression and empathy toward nature.</li> <li>Supports empathy for global communities facing environmental challenges. Encourages children to recognise how music is connected to place, culture, and the natural world.</li> <li>Promotes creative, emotional connection to environmental changes. Children think critically about how music can represent real-world challenges and use their musical decisions to tell a story.</li> </ul>
<b>Y5</b>	Jazz and Blues, Samba and Rhythm, Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourages children to make emotional and symbolic links between music and environmental change. Builds understanding of how music can express loss,</li> </ul>

	Compositions, Songwriting	<p>reflection, and hope, drawing parallels between historical mourning and modern ecological awareness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This approach invites empathy and creative engagement with real-world challenges. By using music as emotional expression, children begin to understand how the arts can raise awareness and provoke action.</li> <li>• Links music with environmental sustainability, helping children understand that instruments, sounds, and traditions are deeply connected to the land. Fosters respect for cultural and ecological preservation.</li> <li>• Encourages children to connect musical expression with the emotional and visual characteristics of ecosystems under threat. Builds empathy and awareness while supporting creative thinking and collaboration.</li> </ul>
Y6	Baroque Music, Canon and Ground Bass, Songwriting and Performance, Leavers' Song	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This encourages children to explore the emotional impact of environmental issues through sound. It helps them connect musical choices with storytelling and supports empathy for the natural world.</li> <li>• Encourages children to use artistic and musical expression to explore different environments and their fragility. Supports empathy, imaginative thinking, and creative communication about climate themes.</li> <li>• Builds creative links between sound and environmental imagery. Encourages empathy for nature and reflection on environmental change through musical decision-making.</li> <li>• This offers a reflective and age-appropriate way to embed sustainability values into the children's personal narrative. It frames leaving primary school not only as a personal milestone, but also as a chance to be part of a better future.</li> </ul>

## How We Teach Music

- **Practical First:** Every lesson begins with active music-making. Children sing, play, listen and move.
- **Musical Vocabulary:** Key terms are introduced and revisited often in context.
- **1-Minute Checks:** Each lesson includes a short, practical check to assess understanding and clarify misconceptions.
- **Creative Assessments:** End-of-unit tasks allow children to showcase learning through performances, compositions, or recordings.
- **Inclusive and Differentiated:** Children access music in a way that matches their needs, from body percussion to full notation.
- **Celebratory Moments:** Each unit builds towards a mini-performance, showcase or sharing opportunity.

## Music Assessment Summary for Parents

We assess music through observation, recorded work, performances and reflection. Children are supported to develop musical vocabulary, confidence and creativity.

### Below Expectations

Your child may find it difficult to keep a steady beat or follow a rhythm; be reluctant to sing or play in a group; struggle to use or remember musical terms

### At Expected Level

Your child is likely to keep a steady beat; sing or play in a group; begin to compose short patterns; use musical vocabulary with growing confidence

### Above Expectations

Your child may demonstrate control and fluency when performing; compose imaginative pieces using structure and elements; use musical terms accurately and confidently; show independence and creativity in group work

## How You Can Support Music at Home

At Micklands, we believe music comes alive when it's part of everyday life. You don't need to be a musician to support your child—just curious! Here are some simple ways to build musical thinking and awareness at home:

### Make Music Together

- Sing songs at bedtime, in the car, or while cooking
- Clap or tap along to favourite songs
- Make up silly rhymes or beats together

### Explore Instruments

- Try apps or digital instruments online
- Use household items as percussion (e.g. pots, shakers)
- Visit music shops or local concerts

### Listen Widely

- Explore music from different countries and styles
- Talk about what you like or how music makes you feel
- Watch live or recorded performances together

### Celebrate Creativity

- Record performances or compositions at home
- Encourage your child to invent lyrics or tunes
- Give positive feedback and enjoy the process

### Support Songwriting and Climate Links

- Talk about the planet and how music can send a message
- Write verses together or make soundscapes inspired by nature