10.1. Progression in Vocabulary

The teaching and use of appropriate vocabulary forms an important part of teaching and learning. These age specific 'key word' lists identify the vocabulary that we expect teachers to be using. In addition, specific key words (must words) will be selected from these lists for each unit of work for inclusion in the knowledge organisers.

10.2 The Interrelated Dimensions of Music:

These are the building blocks of practical musicianship and are woven into all units covered. The following terms should be used in Music lessons, and will be introduced progressively across a child's time at St. Andrew's (as highlighted in the age-specific lists below). With each new piece of music studied, children should always return to the foundations of pulse, then rhythm, then pitch; adding new dimensions as they progress.

Interrelated Dimensions of Music	Vocabulary	Definition
	pulse/beat	The regular repeating heartbeat of the music – it is usually what people tap their foot along to.
	rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
	pitch	High and low sounds.
	duration	The length of a note; short or long.
	tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow.
	dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.
	timbre	All instruments, including voices, have a certain sound quality.
	texture	Layers of sound – these layers working together make music very interesting to listen to.
	structure	Every piece of music has a structure e.g. an introduction, verse, chorus and ending.
	notation	The link between sound and symbol – the way we visually draw or write down music.

10.3

EYFS Nursery	Vocabulary	Definition
	pulse / beat	The regular repeating heartbeat of the music – it is usually what people tap their foot along to.
	action	Adding movement to match the music or words you can hear.
	body percussion	Sounds which can be made using parts of the body, e.g. clapping, tapping knees, etc.
	listen	Giving attention to a sound.
	percussion instruments	Instruments that create sound by being struck, scraped or rattled.
	perform	Share your musical learning with others – for example, putting on a show or singing a song for others.
	play	Using an instrument to make music.
	rhyme	Words that have the same ending sound – for example, 'cat' and 'hat'.

10.4

EYFS Reception	Vocabulary	Definition
	pulse/beat	The regular repeating heartbeat of the music – it is usually what people tap their foot along to.
	rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
	chorus	A repeating section of a song with the same melody and lyrics each time it returns.
	compose	To make or write your own music.
	conductor	The person who leads the orchestra.
	expression	The emotion in music.
	lyrics	The words of a song.
	melody	The tune.
	orchestra	A group of musicians who play instruments together.
	verse	A section of a song with the same melody but different lyrics each time it returns.

10.5

Key Stage 1

Vocabulary	Definition
pulse/beat	The regular repeating heartbeat of the music – it is usually what people tap their foot along to.
rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
pitch	High and low sounds.
duration	The length of a note; short or long.
tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow.
dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.
accompaniment	The music that supports the main melody.
call and echo	When one person sings / plays a phrase and then others copy it back, exactly the same.
call and response	When one person sings / plays a phrase and then other respond by singing something different.
canon	Two or more groups playing / singing the same thing, but one starting after the other, overlapping. (Also referred to as a round).
chant	Speech with a specific rhythm.
metre	The grouping of beats into twos, threes, fours, etc, for instance in waltz music the beats are grouped in threes, whereas in march music they are grouped in twos or fours.
phrase	A small unit of a melody – often corresponding to a line of a song.
rap	A popular genre of music – a mixture between singing and talking where words are spoken with rhythm, usually accompanied with a beat.
score	A written representation of music designed to record a composer's intention.
sequence	Musical phrases or parts played individually one after the other.
sound effect	Using an instrument, including the voice, to make a sound that imitates something else.
tuned percussion	Percussion instruments which make sounds with a defined pitch, e.g. glockenspiel.
unison	Where a group of voices sing together.
vocal percussion	Using the voice to imitate the sound of percussion instruments.

10.6

Lower Key Stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
pulse/beat	The regular repeating heartbeat of the music – it is usually what people tap their foot along to.
rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
pitch	High and low sounds.
duration	The length of a note; short or long.
tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow.
dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.
timbre	All instruments, including voices, have a certain sound quality.
texture	Layers of sound – these layers working together make music very interesting to listen to.
structure	Every piece of music has a structure e.g. an introduction, verse, chorus and ending.
notation	The link between sound and symbol – the way we visually draw or write down music.
a cappella	Music for voice only, without accompaniment.
beatbox	A form of vocal percussion involving mimicking drum machines and other instruments using the mouth, lips, tongue and voice.
bridge	A contrasting part of a song that normally then leads back to the main song.
chord	Two or more notes played at the same time.
crochet	A note lasting 1 beat.
downbeat	The accented first beat of the bar.
drone	A long, sustained note or chord.
harmony	The relation of two or more notes played (or sung) at the same time.
improvise	To make up a tune and play it or sing it on the spot (not composing or writing it down to play later).
minim	A note lasting 2 beats.
ostinato	A repeated rhythmic or melodic pattern (plural: ostinati or ostinatos). Can also be called a riff.
part-singing	Singing with three of more voice parts.

10.7

Lower Key Stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
pentatonic scale	A five-note scale, of which there are many types. One of the most common can be played using only the black notes on a piano.
quaver	A note lasting half a beat.
rest	A silence between notes when you do not sing or play.
rondo	A structure that has a recurring theme (A) alternating with contrasting sections – for example: A B A C A D A
scale	A series of notes in ascending or descending order.
semi-breve	A note lasting 4 beats.
song cycle	A structure of music in which a group of songs is performed in a defined sequence.
soundscape	A picture in sound.
staccato	Short, detached noes, indication with a dot underneath or above the note head.
stave	The 5 horizontal lines music is written on.
syncopated	Often used synonymously with ‘off-beat’. Both refer to a rhythm that emphasises normally weak beats.
time signature	Numbers on the staff, located at the start of a piece, that show the number and type of beats in each bar.

10.8

Upper Key Stage 2	Vocabulary	Definition
	pulse/beat	The regular repeating heartbeat of the music – it is usually what people tap their foot along to.
	rhythm	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
	pitch	High and low sounds.
	duration	The length of a note; short or long.
	tempo	The speed of the music; fast or slow.
	dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.
	timbre	All instruments, including voices, have a certain sound quality.
	texture	Layers of sound – these layers working together make music very interesting to listen to.
	structure	Every piece of music has a structure e.g. an introduction, verse, chorus and ending.
	notation	The link between sound and symbol – the way we visually draw or write down music.
	acoustic	Non-electric sounds that are made by shaking, scraping, tapping or blowing a sound maker.
	arrhythmic	Music which has no discernible steady beat)also referred to as free).
	backing vocal	An additional voice part that complements, but is less important, than the lead vocal (the main voice part).
	binary	In Music, a two-part structure: AB. The A and B sections are musically different from each other.
	break	An instrumental or percussion section or interlude in a song.
	chromatic	A chromatic instrument is one which is capable of playing every note of the chromatic scale.
	chromatic scale	A scale of twelve notes, each a semitone apart, the smallest interval in Western music.
	cluster	A group of notes that are close in pitch and sounded together.
	coda	The end section of a piece of music.
	crescendo	Gradually getting louder.
	cumulative	A musical structure in which individual parts join in one by one. It can apply to both the structure itself (as in a cumulative song such as 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'), or to the voices/instruments playing (as in the gradual addition of instruments playing).

10.10

Upper Key Stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
diminuendo	Gradually getting quieter.
dot notation	A simple form of Western staff notation. Dots are placed in height and distance relation to each other to indicate pitch and duration.
duet	A song or piece of music for two parts of equal importance.
fanfare	A short piece of music, usually played on brass instruments, to announce a special event or occasion.
glissando	A slide up or down from one musical note to another, in the manner of a rapid, sliding scale.
groove	A short section of rhythmic layers, repeated over and over again.
key	This refers to the scale on which the music is based and around which related harmonies are built. For example, a piece may be in the key of C major, meaning that its tonic, or home note, is the note C and the notes of its scale are C D E F G A B C.
major	One of the most common types of eight-note musical scale. Often described as having a happy sound.
middle eight	A type of musical bridge – it is a short, eight-bar passage in the middle of a song that links two sections.
minimalism	A style of composition based on the idea of simplicity that uses repetition and short and simple melodies.
minor	One of the most common types of eight-note musical scale. Often describe as having a sad sound.
modulation	The changing of music into a different key.
pizzicato	The technique of playing a string instrument, e.g. violin, by plucking the strings rather than playing with the bow.
solo	A piece of music for one singer or instrumentalist.
ternary	A structure of music which has three sections, in which the first is repeated: A B A.
tremolo	The rapid repetition of notes, producing a quavering effect. It can either be on one note or between two notes.
trill	The rapid alternation of two adjacent notes, producing a trembling effect.