Music at a Glance

Bassingbourn Community Primary School · Reception to Year 6

This summary shows how pupils' musical skills and knowledge develop as they move through the school. Our classes are mixed-age, so we share expectations at four points: the end of Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6.

Area	By the end of Reception children can:	By the end of Year 2 pupils can:	By the end of Year 4 pupils can:	By the end of Year 6 pupils can:
Singing	Sing familiar songs, chants and rhymes, on their own and with others.	Sing simple songs from memory, matching the pitch they hear and breathing in the right places.	Sing in a round and in parts, thinking about posture, volume and clear words.	Sing in harmony, holding an independent part with accuracy and expression.
Playing instruments	Explore how instruments can make different sounds.	Keep a steady beat on untuned instruments and play simple patterns.	Play simple melodies and two-note chords, and play as part of a band.	Play chord patterns and parts in a band or ensemble with increasing fluency.
Listening and appraising	Move to music and talk about how it makes them feel.	Listen carefully, move to the beat, and explain how music makes them feel and why.	Listen for detail, such as pitch, and use musical words to explain their responses.	Listen to music from different times and traditions, naming instruments and explaining how features create an effect.
Composing and improvising	Make up sounds and rhythms to match a story or idea.	Create simple sound sequences, and improvise question-and-answer phrases.	Improvise using up to five notes, and compose short pieces using given notes or rhythms.	Compose music for a purpose, such as a film soundtrack or jingle, using chords, melody and music technology.
Notation	Use pictures and symbols to show sounds.	Follow simple notation from left to right, and read rhythms of one-beat and half-beat sounds.	Read and write simple rhythms, and begin to read notes on a stave.	Read and play simple melodies on a stave, and record rhythms using standard notation.
Performing	Perform songs and music to others, on their own or in a group.	Perform with a steady beat, and give positive feedback using words such as fast, slow, loud and quiet.	Perform with an awareness of the audience, and give constructive feedback.	Perform with confidence and expression, using body language, and reflect on how to improve.

Across every stage, pupils learn to use the elements of music: pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, texture, timbre and structure.