St Mary's Progression in Music

Singing

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Join in with nursery rhymes and songs. Sing familiar songs from memory. Move in time to music. Perform with others.	Sing simple songs with increasing confidence. Recognise phrases and sections within songs. Begin performing to an audience.	Sing accurately at a given pitch. Follow melodic direction. Sing in parts and experiment with tempo and dynamics.	Sing with expression and control. Maintain part within a group. Begin harmonising.	Perform from memory with increasing accuracy. Sing rounds and partner songs. Improvise vocally.	Demonstrate expressive singing techniques. Sustain independent vocal parts. Adapt performance style to suit genre.	Lead singing confidently. Maintain harmony parts. Perform complex repertoire with musicality and control.

Instrumental performance

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Explore untuned percussion instruments. Create and copy simple sounds	Maintain pulse using percussion instruments. Perform simple rhythmic patterns	Play simple melodies and rhythms on tuned instruments. Recognise high and low pitch.	Perform melodies using notation. Develop ukulele and glockenspiel technique	Read and perform increasingly complex notation. Play scales and simple chord patterns	Perform confidently using tuned percussion and ensemble skills. Develop chordal understanding	Demonstrate fluency and accuracy in ensemble performance. Apply knowledge independently across instruments

Listening and appraising

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Respond physically and verbally to music. Identify sounds and moods	Recognise repeated patterns and musical changes. Express opinions about music	Identify characteristics of different genres and periods. Recognise tempo and dynamic changes	Describe music using appropriate musical vocabulary. Compare musical styles	Explain characteristics of different genres and composers. Identify purpose and context	Analyse musical features in a range of world, jazz and classical music	Critically evaluate music using technical vocabulary and contextual understanding

Composition and improvisation

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Create simple sound patterns using voices and instruments	Create simple rhythmic patterns. Explore graphic notation	Improvise using three notes. Compose simple melodies and rhythmic sequences	Compose melodies using up to five notes. Add dynamics and tempo	Compose using scales and standard notation. Create melodic and rhythmic phrases	Compose music inspired by genre, culture and visual stimuli. Use melody, rhythm and harmony	Compose extended pieces demonstrating structure, texture, dynamics and expression

Knowledge is organised around the inter-related dimensions of music:

- Pulse
- Rhythm
- Pitch
- Tempo
- Dynamics
- Timbre
- Texture
- Structure
- Melody

- Harmony

Pupils revisit these concepts through singing, listening, composing, improvising and performing.

Pulse

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Move to a steady beat.	Identify and maintain a pulse.	Keep pulse whilst performing.	Find and demonstrate pulse independently.	Maintain pulse in ensemble work.	Apply pulse confidently across different musical styles.	Manipulate pulse and metre creatively in performance and composition.

Rhythm

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Copy simple rhythmic patterns.	Clap and perform short rhythms.	Read and perform simple rhythm notation.	Perform more complex rhythms accurately.	Create rhythmic phrases and understand syncopation.	Apply rhythmic patterns in composition.	Manipulate rhythm creatively across genres and styles.

Pitch

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Explore high and low sounds.	Recognise changes in pitch.	Identify high and low pitch and play simple melodies.	Understand pitch on the stave.	Read and perform melodic patterns.	Use pitch purposefully in composition.	Create extended melodic ideas showing pitch awareness.

Tempo

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Experience fast and slow music.	Identify fast and slow speeds.	Recognise and perform tempo changes.	Use tempo in compositions and performances.	Explain how tempo affects mood.	Manipulate tempo for effect.	Select tempo deliberately to achieve musical intentions.

Dynamics

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Explore loud and quiet sounds.	Recognise dynamic contrasts.	Identify dynamic changes in music.	Use dynamics when performing.	Explain how dynamics influence expression.	Apply dynamic contrast in compositions.	Manipulate dynamics with precision and purpose.

Melody

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Sing simple melodic patterns.	Recognise melodies in songs.	Perform simple melodies.	Compose simple melodic phrases.	Develop melodies using scales.	Compose melodies within different genres.	Create extended melodic structures independently.

Harmony

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Experience group singing.	Sing with others.	Begin singing in parts.	Introduce simple harmonies.	Perform rounds and partner songs.	Understand harmony within ensemble music.	Apply harmonic understanding in performance and composition.

Timbre

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Explore different sounds.	Identify different instrument sounds.	Compare sounds from different instruments.	Describe instrumental sounds using musical vocabulary.	Explain how timbre affects musical character.	Select timbres for specific purposes.	Use timbre creatively within compositions.

Texture

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Experience individual and group sounds.	Identify solo and group performance.	Recognise layers of sound.	Describe simple textures.	Compare thick and thin textures.	Create layered musical textures.	Manipulate texture intentionally in composition.

Structure

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Recognise repeated sections.	Identify verse and chorus.	Understand beginning, middle and end.	Recognise repeated and contrasting sections.	Compose using simple structures.	Analyse structures in different genres.	Create extended compositions with clear structure.

What Makes an Expert Musician at St Mary's?

By the end of Year 6, pupils can:

- Sing accurately and expressively.
- Perform confidently as soloists and ensemble members.
- Read and interpret notation.
- Improvise and compose with increasing independence.
- Analyse and evaluate music using technical vocabulary.
- Understand music within historical, cultural and social contexts.
- Apply their musical knowledge creatively across a range of genres and traditions.

They leave St Mary's as knowledgeable, confident and reflective musicians who understand music as both an art form and a means of personal expression.