Cragside Church of England Primary School — Music Curriculum Overview 2026-2027

Shine Bright in Music

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS	Singing, playing, listening, responding and moving to music through continuous provision	Singing, playing, listening, responding and moving to music through continuous provision **Christmas Performance and Preparation**	Singing, playing, listening, responding and moving to music through continuous provision	Singing, playing, listening, responding and moving to music through continuous provision	Singing, playing, listening, responding and moving to music through continuous provision	Singing, playing, listening, responding and moving to music through continuous provision
Year 1	**Ourselves-** (Exploring sounds) Explore ways of using their voices expressively developing singing skill and performing actions to create an expressive story. (Cross curricular link- English) **Number-** (Beat) Developing a sense of steady beat through using movement, body percussion and instruments. (Cross curricular link- Maths) **Classical Musician Focus** Vaughan Williams - Lark Ascending (BBC Ten Pieces)	**Christmas Performance and Preparation** Children will sing and perform Christmas and carol songs from memory with the understanding that the choruses are repeated. Perform to a crowd with an awareness of the need to look at their audience. Follow instructions for when to sing, perform and move.. To work collaboratively with others in a performance as a large ensemble. To improvise simple rhythmic and melodic accompaniments to songs **St Nicholas' Church Christmas Service**	**Machines-** (Beat) Explore beat through movement, body percussion and instruments. Combine a steady beat with word rhythms and explore changes in tempo. (Cross curricular link- PSHE) **Seasons-** (Pitch) Develop further vocabulary and understanding of pitch movements. Explore pitch through singing, pitched percussion and listening games. (Cross curricular link- Science)	**Our School-** (Exploring sounds) Explore sounds found in school environment. Investigate ways to produce and record sounds using ICT to stimulate musical ideas related to geography. (Cross curricular link- Geography) **Pattern-** (Beat) Develop an understanding of metre (groupings of steady beat) through counting, body percussion and reading scores. (Cross curricular link- Maths) **Easter Performance**	**Story Time-** (Exploring sounds) Children learn how music can be used to tell a story. Identify contrasts of fast and slow, loud and quiet, leading to a performance. (Cross curricular link- English) **Our Bodies-** (Beat) Develop a sense of steady beat using body percussion. Respond to music and play rhythm patterns on body percussion. (Cross curricular link- Science)	**Travel-** (Performing) Develop performance skills and learn songs about travel and transport from around the world. (Cross curricular link- PE) **Water-** (Pitch) Use voices, movement and instruments to explore changes of pitch. Develop a performance with different vocal pitch shapes and tuned percussion. (Cross curricular link- Art and Design) **End of Year Performance**
Year 2	**Ourselves-** (Exploring sounds) Discover ways to use voices to describe feelings and moods. Explore, create and perform vocal sounds and notate pitch duration building performance. (Cross curricular link- English/PSHE) **Toys-** (Beat) Move and play to a steady beat and sequences of sounds. Learn to control and change tempo as they take a scooter ride. (Cross curricular link- PSHE) **Classical Musician Focus** Kerry Andrew- No Place Like (BBC Ten Pieces)	**Christmas Performance and Preparation** Children will rehearse Christmas and carol songs with control of pitch and breathing at the end of a phrase. Perform to a crowd with an awareness of the need to look at their audience. To work collaboratively with others in a performance as a large ensemble. To explore song structure and make decisions - who will sing the verse? Actions? Etc. To practice together and suggest improvements of the performance. **St Nicholas' Church Christmas Service**	**Animals-** (Pitch) Build on recognition of changing pitch through animal movement. Interpret and create a pitch line notation using both voices and tuned instruments. (Cross curricular link-PE) **Number-** (Beat) Explore steady beat and rhythm patterns. Play beats and patterns from Renaissance Italy to West Africa and create their own with body percussion, voices and instruments. (Cross curricular link- Maths)	**Storytime-** (Exploring sounds) Introduces children to famous pieces to stimulate composition. Interpret a storyboard with sound effects and develop own ideas using voices and percussion. (Cross curricular link- English) **Seasons-** (Pitch) Develop an understanding of pitch through movement, songs and listening games. Become familiar with pitch shapes and perform them in a variety of musical arrangements. (Cross curricular link- Science) **Easter Performance**	**Weather-** (Exploring sounds) Weather raps and songs provide opportunities to create descriptive sounds and word rhythms. Create descriptive class composition using voices and instruments. (Cross curricular link- Geography) **Pattern**- (Beat) Using simple notations, children play, create and combine mini-beast rhythms using body percussion and instruments. (Cross curricular link- Maths)	**Recorders** Learn to play, perform, compose and improvise using the recorder. **End of Year Performance**

Year 3	**Ukulele** Learn to play, perform, compose and improvise using the ukulele. Specialist teacher MPN	**Ukulele** Learn to play, perform, compose and improvise using the ukulele. Specialist teacher MPN **Christmas Performance and Preparation** Children will rehearse and sing songs in tune, with expression and control of breathing. To perform songs following hand signals. Performing to an audience, maintaining their own part, as well as working as a large ensemble. To explore song structure and make decisions - who will sing the verse? Actions? Etc. Practice together and suggest improvements for the performance. Discussions of the structure of songs and identifying repetition and contrasts. **St Nicholas' Church Christmas Service**	**Ukulele** Learn to play, perform, compose and improvise using the ukulele. Specialist teacher MPN	**Ukulele** Learn to play, perform, compose and improvise using the ukulele. Specialist teacher MPN **Easter Performance**	**Ukulele** Learn to play, perform, compose and improvise using the ukulele. Specialist teacher MPN	**Ukulele** Learn to play, perform, compose and improvise using the ukulele. Specialist teacher MPN
Year 4	**Poetry-** (Performing) Develop performances of contrasting poems. Use voices to speak expressively and rhythmically. Discover ways to create ostinato and accompaniments to enhance performances. (Cross curricular link- English) **Environment-** (Composing) Seasons and the environment provide the stimuli for compositions. Children make descriptive accompaniments and discover how the environment has inspired composers throughout history. (Cross curricular link- Science) **Classical Musician Focus** George Frideric Handel- Zadok the Priest (BBC Ten Pieces)	**Christmas Performance and Preparation** Children will rehearse and sing songs in parts and in rounds with accurate pitch and control of breathing. Children will perform songs following hand signals and perform to an audience, maintaining their own part, as well as working as a large ensemble. Perform to a crowd with an awareness of the need to look at their audience. To explore song structure and make decisions - who will sing the verse? Actions? Etc. Children may have the opportunities to improvise some accompaniments for songs, using repeating patterns. **St Nicholas' Church Christmas Service**	**Building-** (Beat) Building themed songs allow children to explore different music textures. Children use layers and rondo structure to combine ostinato using body percussion and tuned instruments. (Cross curricular link- PSHE) **Around the World-** (Pitch) Explore pentatonic melodies and syncopated rhythms. Learn that the fundamental dimensions of music are the same all over the world. (Cross curricular link- Geography)	**Ancient Worlds-** (Structure) Explore 20th Century minimalist music inspired by the story of Akhenaten and compose music using a layered pyramid structure. Celebrate the achievements of the Egyptians in this unit. (Cross curricular link- History) **Singing Spanish-** (Pitch) Sample sights and sounds of the Spanish-speaking world as children learn greetings, count to twelve and play singing games. Explore part-singing and accompaniments in four contrasting songs. (Cross curricular link- Languages) **Easter Performance**	**Communication-** (Composing) Create a news programme complete with theme music and school news headlines. Use songs and raps to alert the school of burning issues of the day. (Cross curricular link- English) **Time-** (Beat) Music featuring clocks helps children to understand rhythm and syncopation in this unit. Learn to sing and play bell patterns, listen to an orchestral clock piece and create their own descriptive music. (Cross curricular link- Maths)	**In the Past-** (Notation) Use a variety of notations to build performances from different periods and styles. Learn a Renaissance dance, walk down the aisle to Wagners Bridal march and dance the mashed potato. (Cross curricular link- PE) **Food and Drink-** (Performing) Cook up a musical feast enjoying a varied diet of healthy beans, exotic Tudor banquets and DIY pizzas before celebrating in a song performance. (Cross curricular link- DT) **End of Year Performance**

Year 5	**Our Community-** (Performing) The song Jerusalem is the basis for looking at changes through time. Children are given opportunities to compose and perform music inspired by local community, past and present. (Cross curricular link- History) **Classical Musician Focus** Gustav Holst- 'Mars' from the 'Planets' (BBC Ten Pieces)	**Christmas Performance and Preparation** Children will rehearse and sing Christmas songs and carols in parts, rounds and harmony, maintaining their own part and working as a large ensemble. To sing with meaning and expression, keeping accurate and controlled breathing. To explore song structure and make decisions - who will sing the verse? Actions? Etc. To rehearse together and evaluate/discuss what was successful/unsuccessful and suggesting improvements. **St Nicholas' Church Christmas Service**	**Life Cycles-** (Structure) Explore the human life cycle with music from Brahms, Berio, Liszt and Monteverdi. The wide variety of musical moods, styles and genres inspires singing, performing and composing new techniques and structures. (Cross curricular link- PSHE)	**Keeping Healthy-** (Beat) Children are taken through their paces and put together a performance using new musical techniques from body popping to gospel singing skeletons! (Cross curricular link- PE)	**At the Movies-** (Composing) Explore movie music from 1920s animated films to present day movies. Learn techniques for creating soundtracks and film scored and compose own movie music. (Cross curricular link- English)	**Celebration-** (Performing) Develop lively pieces into a performance at a school or class celebration. (Cross curricular link- English) **End of Year Performance**
Year 6	**World Unite-** (Performing) Explore rhythm and melody in singing, movement and dance. Learn about beat, syncopation, pitch and harmony. Celebrate the universal language of music. (Cross curricular link- PE) **Classical Musician Focus** Ludwig Van Beethoven- Symphony No.5 (1st movement) (BBC Ten Pieces)	**Christmas Performance and Preparation** Children will perform Christmas songs and carols to a crowd from memory and with confidence. Children will sing in parts, round and in harmony, controlling their pitch and breathing, with clear meaning and expression. To have the opportunity to take on the role of 'conductor' whilst leading songs. To rehearse with others, suggesting what has been successful and what may require improvements. To explore song structure and make decisions - who will sing the verse? Actions? Etc. **St Nicholas' Church Christmas Service**	**Growth-** (Performing) Explore Ravel's Bolero through rhythmical mime, learn songs with instrumental accompaniments and create a dance to build into a thrilling street performance. The 'street' is the setting for this unit of buskers and flash mobs. (Cross curricular link- Geography)	**Stronger Together-** (Performing) Working together to produce a united vocal and instrumental performance about global challenges. sing songs and compose music about current global challenges and the need to come together to look after our Earth. They will prepare a moving performance or podcast. (Cross curricular link- Geography) **Easter Performance**	**Journeys-** (Performing) The theme of challenging journeys in life resonated through this selection of songs with thoughts of change and transition binding them in an optimistic and uplifting song-cycle performance. (Cross curricular link- PSHE)	**Moving Up - (Performing)** Exploring the rhythms, messages and structure of a pop song and producing a well-crafted performance. Produce a well-crafted performance of Sarajane's pop song Moving up and will explore their own feelings about moving up to Secondary school. (Cross curricular link- PSHE) **End of Year Performance**

Respect *Perseverance* *Joy* *Forgiveness* *Kindness* *Love*

Additional Music Opportunities- Weekly singing assemblies for KS1 and KS2 **-** Private music tuition: Ukulele (Y1-Y6), Guitar (Y4-Y6) Djembe drums (Y1-Y6), Clarinet, Flute **-** Ukulele wider opportunity- weekly ukulele teaching to Year 3 (Autumn and Spring term) **-** Year 6 to have weekly teaching with a range of instruments to perform in a band (summer term) **-** Music Play Day, orchestral performance at JLV **-** Termly music performances **-** Sing up Club