

Music Vocabulary	
Reception/EYFS	
WORD	DEFINITION
Performance	A performance is sharing music.
Pitch	High and low sounds.
Pulse	(steady beat) The foundation of all music, it is a musical heartbeat that never stops.
Rhythm	Long and short sounds that happen over the pulse (steady beat) so, rhythm changes and pulse stays the same.
Year 1	
Essential Vocabulary	
WORD	DEFINITION
Composing	Writing a story with music.
Improvisation	To make up a tune and play it on the spot.
Performance	A performance is sharing music.
Pitch	High and low sounds.
Pulse	(steady beat) The foundation of all music, it is a musical heartbeat that never stops.
Rhythm	Long and short sounds that happen over the pulse (steady beat) so, rhythm changes and pulse stays the same.
Unison	Everyone plays or sings the same music at the same time.
Musical Genres (styles)	
GENRE	DEFINITION
Blues	A style of music characterised by its harmonic structure and the notes used to create the melodies.
Bossa Nova	A Brazilian dance music that has syncopated guitar rhythms.
Classical	Music composed between c.1720 and 1840, e.g. the era of Mozart, Joseph Haydn, and the young Beethoven.
Hip-Hop	Music that developed in the 1970s but remains very popular today. It includes rapping.
Pop	A shortened form of 'Popular music'. Pop music constantly changes as we change and the world changes.
Reggae	A vocal technique in which the performer speaks rhythmically against a steady beat.



Year 2	
Essential Vocabulary	
WORD	DEFINITION
Composing	Writing a story with music.
Improvisation	To make up a tune and play it on the spot.
Performance	A performance is sharing music.
Pitch	High and low sounds.
Pulse	(steady beat) The foundation of all music, it is a musical heartbeat that never stops.
Rhythm	Long and short sounds that happen over the pulse (steady beat) so, rhythm changes and pulse stays the same.
Unison	Everyone plays or sings the same music at the same time.
Musical Genres (styles)	
GENRE	DEFINITION
Classical (first introduced in Y1)	Music composed between c.1720 and 1840, e.g. the era of Mozart, Joseph Haydn, and the young Beethoven.
Pop (first introduced in Y1)	A shortened form of 'Popular music'. Pop music constantly changes as we change and the world changes.
Rapping (first introduced in Y1)	A vocal technique in which the performer speaks rhythmically against a steady beat.
Reggae (first introduced in Y1)	Developed in the 1970s and originated from Jamaica, Reggae defined by Bob Marley. It has a prominent bass beat and a strong off-beat usually played on the guitar.
Rock	Came from Rock'n'roll of America in the 1950s and 1960s. It is characterised by loud guitars and drums due to the heavy amplification, strong bass line and driving rhythms.
Year 3	
Essential Vocabulary	
WORD	DEFINITION
Chorus	A repeated section in a song which gives the main message.
Composition	Music that is created by you and kept in some way. It's like writing a story. It can be played or performed again to your friends.
Dynamics	A musical dimension indicating how loudly or quietly the music is being played.
Improvisation	To make up a tune and play it on the spot.
Introduction	Music heard at the beginning of a song or piece of music.
Lyrics	The words of a song.



Pitch	High and low sounds.
Pulse	(steady beat) The foundation of all music, it is a musical heartbeat that never stops.
Rhythm	Long and short sounds that happen over the pulse (steady beat) so, rhythm changes and pulse stays the same.
Texture	A musical dimension that describes the layers of sound in music.
Unison	Everyone plays or sings the same music at the same time.
Verse	A section in a song which has the same tune but different words.

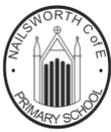
Musical Genres (styles)

GENRE	DEFINITION
Classical (full definition)	This often means all Western art music from the Medieval era to the present. More specifically, it is music composed between c.1720 and 1840, e.g. the era of Mozart, Joseph Haydn, and the young Beethoven.
Disco	(Short for discotheque) Dance music from the 1970s, characterized by hypnotic rhythm, repetitive lyrics and electronically produced sounds.
Pop (introduced in Y1)	A shortened form of 'Popular music'. Pop music constantly changes as we change and the world changes.
Reggae (introduced in Y1)	Developed in the 1970s and originated from Jamaica, Reggae defined by Bob Marley. It has a prominent bass beat and a strong off-beat usually played on the guitar.
R 'n' B	Short for rhythm and blues. A kind of pop music of black origin with a soulful vocal style featuring much improvisation.

Year 4

Essential Vocabulary

WORD	DEFINITION
Chorus	A repeated section in a song which gives the main message.
Composition	Music that is created by you and kept in some way. It's like writing a story. It can be played or performed again to your friends.
Dynamics	A musical dimension indicating how loudly or quietly the music is being played.
Harmony	Different notes sung or played at the same time to produce chords.
Improvisation	To make up a tune and play it on the spot.
Introduction	Music heard at the beginning of a song or piece of music.
Lyrics	The words of a song.
Pitch	High and low sounds.
Pulse	(steady beat) The foundation of all music, it is a musical heartbeat that never stops.



Riff	A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone.
Rhythm	Long and short sounds that happen over the pulse (steady beat) so, rhythm changes and pulse stays the same.
Solo	An Italian word to describe playing, singing or performing of one person or on our own.
Texture	A musical dimension that describes the layers of sound in music.
Unison	Everyone plays or sings the same music at the same time.
Verse	A section in a song which has the same tune but different words.

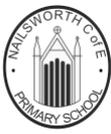
Musical Genres (styles)

GENRE	DEFINITION
Classical (introduced in Y3)	This often means all Western art music from the Medieval era to the present. More specifically, it is music composed between c.1720 and 1840, e.g. the era of Mozart, Joseph Haydn, and the young Beethoven.
Gospel	Music that is Christian usually sung with rich harmony and often with a call and response structure.
Grime	Electronic dance music that emerged in London in the early 2000s. It developed out of a British electronic music style called UK Garage, and draws influences from Jungle, Dancehall, and Hip Hop.
Reggae (introduced in Y1)	Developed in the 1970s and originated from Jamaica, Reggae defined by Bob Marley. It has a prominent bass beat and a strong off-beat usually played on the guitar.
Pop (introduced in Y1)	A shortened form of 'Popular music'. Pop music constantly changes as we change and the world changes.

Year 5

Essential Vocabulary

WORD	DEFINITION
Backing Vocals	The singers who support the lead vocalist. They usually sing in harmony.
Composition	Music that is created by you and kept in some way. It's like writing a story. It can be played or performed again to your friends.
Dynamics	A musical dimension indicating how loudly or quietly the music is being played.
Harmony	Different notes sung or played at the same time to produce chords.
Improvisation	To make up a tune and play it on the spot.
Introduction	Music heard at the beginning of a song or piece of music.
Lead Vocal	The main singer in a band or group.
Lyrics	The words of a song.
Pitch	High and low sounds.



Pulse	(steady beat) The foundation of all music, it is a musical heartbeat that never stops.
Riff	A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone.
Structure	How the sections (verses and choruses etc.) of a song are ordered to make the whole piece.
Texture	A musical dimension that describes the layers of sound in music.
Unison	Everyone plays or sings the same music at the same time.

Musical Genres (styles)

GENRE	DEFINITION
Bossa Nova (introduced in Y1)	A Brazilian dance music that has syncopated guitar rhythms.
Classical (introduced in Y3)	This often means all Western art music from the Medieval era to the present. More specifically, it is music composed between c.1720 and 1840, e.g. the era of Mozart, Joseph Haydn, and the young Beethoven.
Hip-Hop (introduced in Y1)	Music that developed in the 1970s but remains very popular today. It includes rapping.
Motown	A 1960s label created from Soul music characterised by a rhythm section playing, laying down the groove with a funky bassline and a tambourine sounding over the top. Often brass sections play punchy riff-based rhythms and sometimes violins playing long high notes.
Pop (introduced in Y1)	A shortened form of 'Popular music'. Pop music constantly changes as we change and the world changes.
Rapping (introduced in Y2)	A vocal technique in which the performer speaks rhythmically against a steady beat.
Rock (introduced in Y2)	Came from Rock'n'roll of America in the 1950s and 1960s. It is characterised by loud guitars and drums due to the heavy amplification, strong bass line and driving rhythms.
Swing	A type of rhythm often associated with Jazz. Notes in the rhythm pattern are made longer and shorter to create a syncopated effect.

Year 6

Essential Vocabulary

WORD	DEFINITION
Backing Vocals	The singers who support the lead vocalist. They usually sing in harmony.
Composition	Music that is created by you and kept in some way. It's like writing a story. It can be played or performed again to your friends.
Dynamics	A musical dimension indicating how loudly or quietly the music is being played.
Harmony	Different notes sung or played at the same time to produce chords.
Improvisation	To make up a tune and play it on the spot.
Lead Vocal	The main singer in a band or group.



Pitch	High and low sounds.
Pulse	(steady beat) The foundation of all music, it is a musical heartbeat that never stops.
Riff	A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone.
Structure	How the sections (verses and choruses etc.) of a song are ordered to make the whole piece.
Syncopation	Music with lots of rhythmic variety, often quite difficult. The strong beats occur in unexpected places.
Timbre	A musical dimension that describes the quality and character of the sound of the instruments used.
Tempo	A musical dimension that describes how fast or slowly the music is played.
Texture	A musical dimension that describes the layers of sound in music.
Unison	Everyone plays or sings the same music at the same time.
Musical Genres (styles)	
GENRE	DEFINITION
Blues (introduced in Y1)	A style of music characterised by its harmonic structure and the notes used to create the melodies.
Classical (introduced in Y3)	This often means all Western art music from the Medieval era to the present. More specifically, it is music composed between c.1720 and 1840, e.g. the era of Mozart, Joseph Haydn, and the young Beethoven.
Gospel (introduced in Y4)	Music that is Christian usually sung with rich harmony and often with a call and response structure.
Pop (introduced in Y1)	A shortened form of 'Popular music'. Pop music constantly changes as we change and the world changes.
Rapping (introduced in Y2)	A vocal technique in which the performer speaks rhythmically against a steady beat.