Waterloo Primary School Music Curriculum 2026–2027

Pre-formal developmental curriculum and music engagement

Personalised learning develops communication and interaction, cognition and exploration, attention and engagement, play and social development, physical and sensory skills, independence and early learning behaviours. Learning is embedded in routines, play, sensory experiences and interactions; progression follows the school's developmental framework, individual starting points and EHCP outcomes.

E.Step 3	E.Step 4	E.Step 5	E.Step 6
Sensory Locate music without prompting; react excitedly to staff singing.	**Communication and interaction** Babble tunefully; imitate particular sounds with some accuracy when communicating with staff. Making connections Bang and shake objects; enjoy rattles, bean bags and xylophones. Sensory Vocalise melodically to songs, listen with enjoyment and move rhythmically to class songs and familiar music.	**Communication and interaction** Imitate animals through sound, sign or symbol. Functional movement Pick up and shake objects; clap with others. Making connections Respond to nearby auditory event cues; notice environmental sound changes. Sensory Respond differently to loud/soft sounds; engage with varied music and respond vocally.	**Communication and interaction** Repeat short, simple, repetitive rhymes. Sensory Dance; describe music using fast, loud or happy; play musical statues; stop/start with music; attempt to echo a short melody.

Delivery: daily familiar and transition songs; weekly repeated sessions with a topic/action song, visuals and call-and-response, instruments for stop/start, fast/slow and copying patterns, then calm listening. Use parachute movement and sensory supports as appropriate.

Nursery music

Explore sounds and instruments throughout the year; songs and rhymes support learning across the curriculum. Objectives are grouped by term; block references identify specific activities.

Year	LB1–2	LB3–4	LB5–6
Nursery 2	Join songs and rhymes; attend to sounds and music; enjoy and take part in action songs.	Enjoy action songs; learn songs/rhymes from memory, joining some words and repeated or rhythmic sounds.	Enjoy action songs. LB6 poetry festival: join a familiar action rhyme, repeating words, sounds and movements.
Nursery 3–4	LB1: musical movement games, including musical statues. LB2: remember and sing performance songs; match an adult's pitch.	LB3: create songs or improvise on familiar songs; control instruments to express feelings/ideas; use percussion for changing train rhythms.	LB6: contribute animal sounds and repeated phrases to a shared poetry-festival rhyme; listen attentively to African music, noticing sounds, instruments and tempo changes.

Music across the six learning blocks

Year / pathway	LB1	LB2	LB3	LB4	LB5	LB6
Reception	Celebration Music	Music and Movement	Musical Stories	Exploring Sounds	Transport	Big Band
Year 1	Keeping the pulse (My favourite things)	Tempo (Snail and mouse)	Dynamics (Seaside)	Sound patterns (Fairytales)	Pitch (Superheroes)	Musical symbols (Under the sea)
Year 2	Call and response (Animals)	Instruments (Musical storytelling)	Singing (On this island)	Contrasting dynamics (Space)	Structure (Myths and Legends)	Pitch (Musical me)
Phoenix / Orion	Keeping the pulse (My favourite things)	Tempo (Snail and mouse)	Dynamics (Seaside)	Sound patterns (Fairytales)	Pitch (Superheroes)	Not specified in source.
Year 3	Ballads	Creating compositions in response to an animation (Theme: Mountains)	Developing singing technique (Theme: The Vikings)	Pentatonic melodies and composition (Theme: Chinese New Year)	Jazz	Traditional instruments and improvisation (Theme: India)
Year 4	Body and tuned percussion (Theme: Rainforests)	Rock and roll	Changes in pitch, tempo and dynamics (Theme: Rivers)	Haiku, music and performance (Theme: Hanami)	Samba and carnival sounds and instruments	Adapting and transposing motifs (Theme: Romans)
Year 5	Composition notation (Theme: Ancient Egypt)	Blues	South and West Africa	Composition to represent the festival of colour (Theme: Holi festival)	Looping and remixing	Musical theatre
Year 6	Dynamics, pitch and texture (Theme: Fingal's Cave)	Songs of WW2	Film music	Theme and variations (Theme: Pop Art)	Baroque	Composing and performing a Leavers' Song