

## Subject: Performing Arts (Music) Year 7 Curriculum Map 2024-2025

	Topics covered and <b>core knowledge and skills</b>	Links to careers	Resources Links
<b>Half term 5</b>	<p><b>Ukulele Skills and Ensemble Performance – Year 7</b></p> <p>This scheme of work introduces Year 7 pupils to the fundamentals of music through the practical and engaging context of ukulele playing. Over the course of this unit, students will explore the layout and topography of the ukulele, learn essential chords, practise strumming techniques, and develop a solid sense of pulse, rhythm, and timing. The primary goal is to build the skills and confidence needed to perform as a class ensemble, with a focus on two key pieces: <i>Dreams</i> by Fleetwood Mac and <i>Drunken Sailor</i>.</p> <p>The unit begins by introducing pupils to the parts of the ukulele and proper posture and hand positioning. Pupils will learn how to read chord diagrams, identify open strings, and play basic chords such as C, Am, F, and G. These foundational skills will support the learning of more complex chord progressions later in the scheme.</p> <p>Throughout the unit, pupils will explore the core musical elements of pulse, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, and texture through hands-on practice and group work. Strumming patterns will be taught in stages, starting with simple down-strokes and progressing to syncopated and alternating strums. Emphasis will be placed on playing to a steady beat, both with and without a metronome or backing track.</p> <p>In preparation for class performances, pupils will rehearse both <i>Drunken Sailor</i>—a traditional sea shanty ideal for strong rhythmic development—and <i>Dreams</i> by Fleetwood Mac, which offers opportunities to explore groove, subtle dynamic contrast, and expressive strumming. Pupils will learn to play in unison and in layered parts, helping them understand the concepts of texture and ensemble balance.</p>	<p><b>For careers,</b> <a href="#">click here</a></p>	<p><b>Knowledge Organiser</b></p>
<b>Half term 6</b>	<p>Listening and performance analysis will be embedded throughout the unit, encouraging pupils to reflect on their own playing and that of others. Discussions will highlight how rhythm, harmony, and expressive techniques contribute to successful performances.</p> <p>By the end of the scheme, pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the basic topography of the ukulele and how to produce a clear tone.</li> <li>• Know how to play and switch between essential chords confidently.</li> <li>• Be able to follow and perform simple strumming patterns in time with a group.</li> <li>• Demonstrate an awareness of rhythm, pulse, and dynamics.</li> <li>• Perform as a cohesive class ensemble, with attention to timing and musical expression.</li> <li>• Develop listening and teamwork skills through group rehearsal and class performance.</li> </ul> <p>This scheme fosters creativity, coordination, and musical sensitivity while laying the groundwork for future instrumental learning and ensemble participation.</p>	<p><b>For careers,</b> <a href="#">click here</a></p>	<p><b>Knowledge Organiser</b></p>

