

Medium Term Plan: Shaping Music

Year 5 · Unit 1

Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, children will be able to:

1. Improvise confidently over a drone or groove.
2. Compose a short ternary piece using Music Notepad.

	Summary of Lesson	Key Learning
Weeks 1 & 2	Introduction to Time Signatures and Rhythm • Develop an understanding of rhythm and time signatures through listening, movement and song exploration. • Practise counting beats in bars, learning to internalise pulse and rhythm. • Connect musical learning to the theme of friendship, enhancing both musical and social-emotional understanding. Improvising with Rhythm and Melody • Develop improvisation skills and melodic awareness within a 3/4 time signature. • Explore rhythm and pitch through guided improvisation. • Include improvisation within the song “My Best Friend” to support children’s confidence as performers.	To connect a steady beat, rhythm patterns and melodic ideas as a way of creating in music. Strategies for successful improvisation.

Weeks 3 & 4	Composing in Ternary Form • Explore musical structure and composition. • Introduce ternary form (ABA) and the resource, Music Notepad. • Develop an understanding of ternary form (ABA) by creating contrasting sections as part of composing using Music Notepad. • Consolidate the connection between pitch and rhythm by composing in C major. Creating Melody and Rhythm in Ternary Form • Explore major and minor keys through composing, and experiment with mood and expression.	To develop skills and confidence in improvising. Major and minor scales are contrasting because they are constructed differently. The C major scale has the notes C D E F G A B C. Ternary form is a piece of music in three sections, generally described as ABA. The B section contrasts with the A section.
Weeks 5 & 6	Refining the Composition Consolidate ternary form (A–B–A) by refining and combining compositions. Children develop listening, collaboration, and performance skills while exploring C major and C minor. Children consider a structural cohesion in their composition to enhance musical creativity and structural awareness.	Critical listening and editing skills. Performing skills. To provide and receive constructive feedback. Reflective listening.

	Final Performance and Reflection	
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Consolidate and showcase learning through a performance that includes singing, instrumental, and improvisational skills.

As beginner composers, children present their ternary compositions confidently.

Following critical reflection, children provide and receive constructive feedback from others that enables them to reflect on their musical choices and the themes explored.