

Music

Key vocabulary



A list of vocabulary that is covered across the Kapow Primary Music scheme of work. Words in **bold** show new vocabulary that has been introduced.

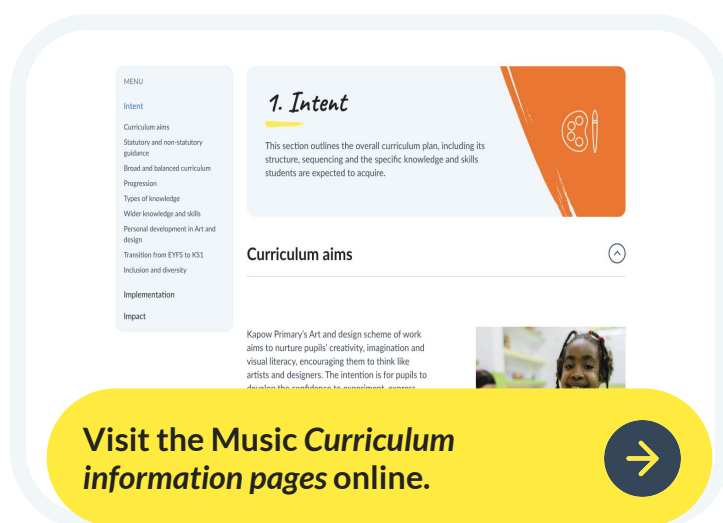
Curriculum support

Kapow Primary's curriculum documentation can also be viewed online, making resources more searchable, user-friendly and sustainable.

Curriculum information pages and *Curriculum portals* bring together content that was previously only accessible across multiple PDF documents. This allows quicker access to key information and ensures that the most up-to-date guidance is always available.

Curriculum information pages

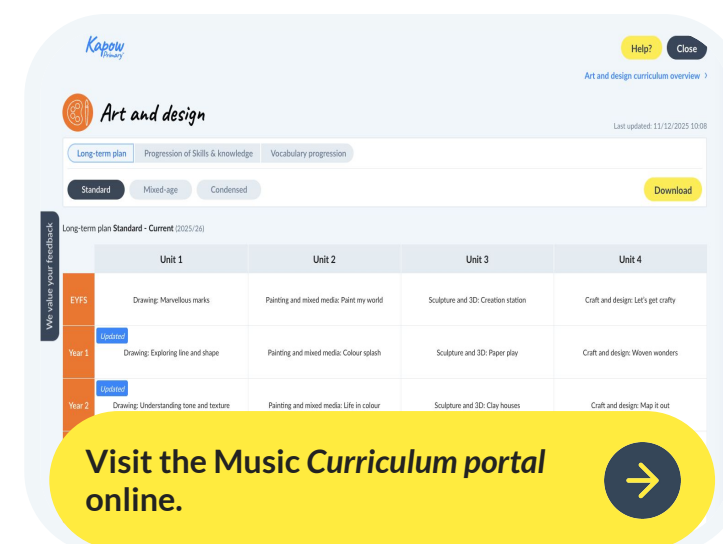
Curriculum information pages outline the intent, implementation and impact of the Kapow Primary curriculum, including the rationale behind the approach. They act as a central hub for curriculum guidance, with links to related resources, embedded media and FAQs to support understanding.



The screenshot shows the '1. Intent' page of the Art and Design curriculum information. It features a sidebar menu with links to Intent, Curriculum aims, Statutory and non-statutory guidance, Broad and balanced curriculum, Progression, Types of knowledge, Wider knowledge and skills, Personal development in Art and design, Transition from EYF5 to KS1, Inclusion and diversity, Implementation, and Impact. The main content area is titled '1. Intent' and describes the overall curriculum plan. Below this, there is a section for 'Curriculum aims' and a description of Kapow Primary's Art and design scheme of work. A yellow call-to-action button at the bottom right says 'Visit the Music Curriculum information pages online.' with a right arrow icon.

Curriculum portals

Curriculum portals provide an online view of each subject's long-term plan and progression. They bring together key unit information, including National curriculum links, British values and SMSC, knowledge and skills, vocabulary and cross-curricular connections, allowing easy navigation between whole-school and unit-level views.



The screenshot shows the 'Art and design' curriculum portal. It includes a top navigation bar with 'Help?' and 'Close' buttons, and a link to 'Art and design curriculum overview'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Long-term plan', 'Progression of Skills & knowledge', and 'Vocabulary progression'. A 'Download' button is also present. The main content area displays a table of units for 'Standard - Current (2025/26)'. The table has columns for Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3, and Unit 4. The rows represent different year groups: EYF5, Year 1, and Year 2. Each row includes a 'Unit' link and a description of the unit. A yellow call-to-action button at the bottom right says 'Visit the Music Curriculum portal online.' with a right arrow icon.

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
EYF5	Drawing: Marvelous marks	Painting and mixed media: Paint my world	Sculpture and 3D: Creation station	Craft and design: Let's get crafty
Year 1	Drawing: Exploring line and shape	Painting and mixed media: Colour splash	Sculpture and 3D: Paper play	Craft and design: Woven wonders
Year 2	Drawing: Understanding tone and texture	Painting and mixed media: Life in colour	Sculpture and 3D: Clay houses	Craft and design: Map it out



Exploring sound

voice, voice sounds, sound, instrument, loud, quiet, high, low, squeaky, soft, deep, body sounds, body percussion, sound, tempo, fast, slow, rhythm, beat, instrumental sounds, tempo, fast, quickly, slowly, dynamic, loudly, quietly, environmental sounds, pitch, middle, nature sounds

Celebration music

music, dance, tempo, move, Diwali, celebration, traditional, Hanukkah, Hora, kinnor, harp, flute, Jewish, trumpet, cymbals, tambourine, shofar, Kwanzaa, Africa, culture, call, response, drum, rhythm, beat, instrument, Christmas, Christian, sleigh bells, actions, action songs, voice sounds, body percussion

Music and movement

actions, action songs, sign language, Makaton, deaf, communication, communicating, understand, lyrics, verse, beat, music, heartbeat, pulse, steady, repeat, constant, drum, piece, composer, tempo, fast, moderate, medium, slow, dance, pitch, high, low, sound, whistle, triangle, siren, cello, perform, performance, audience

Musical stories

classical music, pitch, high, low, tempo, fast, slow, dynamic, loud, quiet, musical story, lyrics, melody, character, instrument, song, actions, percussion, compose, perform, performance

Transport

car, boat, train, beat, fast, slow, speed, cruise, rowing, water, symbols, slower, faster, stopping, journey, score

Big band

music, musical instrument, band, sound, shake, tap, bang, strum, jingle, tempo, dynamic, pitch, beat, orchestra, sound, rhythm, beat, conductor, wind, strings, percussion, brass

Music vocabulary

Year 1



Keeping the pulse (Theme: My favourite things)

pulse, singing voice, speaking voice, thinking voice

Tempo (Theme: Snail and mouse)

beat, fast, singing voice, slow, speaking voice, warm up

Dynamics (Theme: Seaside)

dynamics, instrument, seaside, soundscape, symbol, volume

Sound patterns (Theme: Fairy Tales)

character, voice, sound pattern

Pitch (Theme: Superheroes)

high, low, pattern, performance, pitch, tempo

Musical symbols(Theme: Under the sea)

dynamics, pitch, rest (gap), sound pattern, tempo

Music vocabulary

Year 2



Call and response (Theme: Animals)

call and response, sound pattern, dynamics

Instruments (Musical storytelling)

dynamics, **encore**, **instrumental sound**, **sound effect**, tempo

Contrasting dynamics (Space)

composer, dynamics, **pitch pattern**, **planet**, **representation**, **soundscape**, tempo

Singing (On this island)

composer, **composition**, dynamics, **inspiration**, pitch

Structure (Myths and legends)

legend, **myth**, composition, **notation**, rest, **rhythm**, **structure**, tempo, **two half beats**, **one beat**

Pitch (Musical Me)

dot, low, notation, **phrase**, pitch, **stave**



Ballads

ballad, chorus, compose, dynamics, emotions, **ensemble**, facial **expressions**, **features**, feelings, instrumentals, lyrics, melody, **nonsense words**, performance, **phrases**, **poem**, pop songs, rehearse, rhyme, solo, **stanza**, **story mountain**, **summarize**, tune, verse, vocabulary, volume

Creating compositions in response to an animation (Theme: Mountains)

atmosphere, compose, composition, dynamics, ensemble, influence, in-time, layers, letter notation, **melodic pattern**, melody, opinion, notation, pitch, **repeated rhythm**, represent, sound effect, soundscape, story, tempo, timbre, tuned percussion, untuned percussion

Developing singing technique (Theme: The Vikings)

accuracy, backing track, beat, body percussion, call and response, **co-ordinated**, **crotchet**, discipline, duration, dynamics, in-time, in-tune, layer, lyrics, **key change**, **major key**, **minim**, **minor key**, notation, part, pulse, quaver, rehearse, rhythm, rhythmic notation, sound effects, stave notation, tempo, **tension**, tune, vocal warm-up

Pentatonic melodies and composition (Theme: Chinese New Year)

accuracy, **crescendo**, **control**, composition, duration, dynamics, expression, features, **fluency**, **folk music**, glockenspiel, **grid notation**, **harmony**, **layered melodies**, letter notation, melody, **musical terminology**, notation, notes, **octaves**, **pentatonic melody**, **pentatonic scale**, **phrases**, **scale**, timbre, tempo, untuned percussion

Jazz

call and response, **traditional jazz**, improvisation, **jazz**, **off-beat**, motif, pitch, **ragtime**, rhythm, **scat singing**, **straight quaver**, **strung quaver**, **swung rhythm**, **swing music**, **syncopated rhythm**, **syncopation**, tune,

Traditional instruments and improvisation (Theme: India)

Bollywood, compose, **drone**, dynamics, **harmonium**, improvise, **Indian flute**, lyrics, melodic line, notation, opinion, pitch, repeated rhythm, rhythm, **rag**, **sarangi**, **sitar**, **tabla**, **tala**, tempo,



Body and tuned percussion (Theme: Rainforests)

body percussion, combine, compose, **contrasting rhythms**, dynamics, inspiration, layers, **loop**, **organisation**, repeated melodies, melody line, pitch, record, rhythm, sections, structure, tempo, texture, tune, tuned percussion

Rock and roll

bass line, beat, chorus, dynamics, **flat notes**, **hand jive**, in-time, in-tune, notation, **originate**, pitch, rhythm, rhythmic patterns, **rock and roll**, sections, sequence, **sharp notes**, style, tempo, untuned percussion, verse, vocals, **walking bass line**

Changes in pitch, tempo and dynamics (Theme: Rivers)

a capella, **breath control**, **cue**, **diction**, directing, dynamics, expression, **harmony line**, layer, melody, mood, notation, opinion, **ostinato**, percussion, **in the round**, parts, rhythm, staff notation, tempo, texture, **vocal ostinato**

Haiku, music and performance (Theme: Hanami festival)

composing, **col legno**, descriptive, dynamics, duration, effect, **forte**, **glissando**, **haiku**, inspiration, inter-related dimensions of music, melody, **piano**, pitch, **pizzicato**, represent, silent, **sliding pitch**, sound, sound effects, **staccato**, structure, syllable, tempo, texture, timbre, verse, vocabulary

Samba and carnival sounds and instruments (Theme: South America)

agogo, **bateria**, **caixa**, **carnival**, **chocalho**, composition, crescendo, **cowbell**, dynamics, ensemble, features, **ganza**, influenced, **metronome**, off-beat, percussion, pulse, **repique**, rhythm, **rhythmic break**, **samba**, **samba breaks**, structure, **surdo**, **syncopated rhythms**, **tamborim**, texture, unison, untuned percussion

Adapting and transposing motifs (Theme: Romans)

backing track, bass line, beat, call and response, compose, **crotchet**, **dotted minim**, flats, graphic notation, in-time, in-tune, key, **key signature**, loop, lyrics, **minim**, motif, notation, **ostinato**, pitch, **quavers**, repeating patterns, repetition, rhythm, rhythmic notation, riff, **semibreve**, sharps, tempo, **transpose**, tuned instrument, **vocal warm-ups**



Composition notation (Theme: Ancient Egypt)

accuracy, backing track, **balance**, composition, control, crotchet, **dotted minim**, ensemble, expression, features, fluency, lyrics, minim, minor key, notation, parts, pitch, **pitch notation**, quaver, repeating, rhythm, semibreve, **sheet music**, **staff notation**, **stave**, structure, tempo, tune, tuned percussion, unison, vocal warm-ups

Blues

12-bar blues, **ascending scale**, backing track, **bar**, bent notes, blues, **blues scale**, **chord**, convey, **descending scale**, expression, features, flat, improvisation, lyrics, pitch, quavers, scale, sharp, solo, staff notation

South and West Africa

a capella, **break**, call and response, chords, chord progression, **diction**, **djembe**, duo, dynamics, **eight-beat break**, ensemble, expression, improvisation, major chord, **master drummer**, metronome, performance, **polyrhythms**, **pronunciation**, pulse, ostinato, rests, rhythm, soloist, syncopation, tempo, tuned percussion, unaccompanied, vocals

Composition to represent the festival of colour (Theme: Holi festival)

dynamics, graphic score, inspiration, layering, mood, pitch, represent, soundtrack, **synesthesia**, tempo, texture, timbre, **visual representation**, vocal sounds

Looping and remixing

accuracy, backbeat, body percussion, **fragment**, layers, loop, looped rhythm, melody, melody line, notation, ostinato, remix, rhythm, riff, structure

Musical theatre

action song, **backdrop**, **book musical**, **character song**, **choreographer**, composer, **comic opera**, **costumes**, **designer**, **dialogue**, **director**, duet, ensemble, **hip-hop musical**, **jukebox musical**, **librettist**, **libretto**, **lyricist**, **musical director**, **musical theatre**, **opera**, **operetta**, performers, **props**, **rock musical**, **scene**, solo, tempo, timbre, **transitions**

Music vocabulary

Year 6



Dynamics, pitch and texture

classical, **characterise**, composition, conductor, depict, dynamics, ensemble, graphic score, improvisation, notation, orchestra, pitch, texture

Songs of World War 2

accuracy, backing track, compare, contrast, **complement**, control, **counter-melody**, diaphragm, dynamics, **era**, expression, features, graphic score, harmony, harmonise, lyrics, melody, melody line, **morale**, **notate**, octave, parts, performance techniques, phrase, **phrasing**, pitch, purpose, **score**, **Solfa**, **Solfa ladder**, tempo

Film music

chromatics, conversation, evoke, graphic score, imagery, improvise, interval, major, minor, modulate, notate, pitch, **sound effects**, **soundtrack**, tremolo, unison

Theme and variations (Theme: Pop Art)

3/4 time, **4/4 time**, **accidentals**, body percussion, diaphragm, **legato**, motif, orchestra, percussion, phrases, pitch, pizzicato, pulse, quaver, rhythm, rhythmic elements, section, **semi-quaver**, staccato, tempo, theme, **TIKI-TIKI**, **TI-TIKI**, **TIKI-TI**, translate, variations, vocal line, woodwind

Baroque

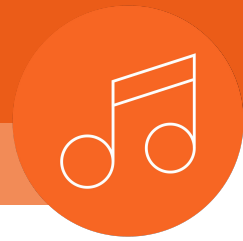
Baroque, bass clef, bass instrument, canon, counter melody, counter-subject, fugue, ground bass, improvise, melodic ostinato, melody, musical structure, opera, ostinato part, pitch, **polyphonic**, oratorio, **recitative**, a round, rhythmic ostinato, **sharp note**, staff notation, **subject**, texture

Composing and performing a Leavers' song

allegro, arrangement, backing track, chorus, chord progression, compose, crescendo, **diminuendo**, dynamics, evaluate, forte, **largo**, lyrics, melody, mood, musical features, notation, piano, **poetic structure**, repetitive, rhyme, **ritardando**, tempo, sequence, stave notation, structure, upbeat, verse

Music vocabulary

Instrumental scheme



South Africa

beater, body percussion, bouncing, compose, crotchet, dynamics, grip, gumboot dance, harmonic ostinato, lines, minim, music notation, ostinati, rest, rhythm, semibreve, South Africa, spaces, staff notation, staff/stave, traditional, treble clef, tuned percussion

Caribbean

calypso, crotchet, kaiso, minim, pentatonic scale, quaver, semibreve, steel pan

South America

cha-cha-cha, Latin music, melody, pitch, rhythm, rumba, salsa, samba, scale, son cubano, tango

Indonesia

calypso, cyclical, gamelan, gumboot, octave, salsa, slendro scale, timbre

India

ambient sounds, body percussion, Bollywood, crescendo, crotchet, dynamics, duration, harmony, masala, minim, performance direction, pitch, playback singer, quaver

North America

EDM, harmony, interlocking phrases, layered textures, melody, minimalist music, ostinato, synthesiser

Given the various ways instrumental lessons can be integrated into the Music curriculum, new vocabulary has not been put in bold on this page.