

Think and Talk
like a Musician

Up the stairs to progress,
down the stairs to remember!



Reception

Red/ yellow/ cat/monkey
Volume (dynamics)
Loud/quiet
Start/stop
High/low (pitch)
Long/short (duration)
Tap, shake, scrape
Conduct/conductor

Year 1 and 2

Rhythm (cat/ monkey/ rest)
Beat
Pulse
Fast / slow – tempo
Loud/ quiet - forte/ piano
Start/ stop
high/ low – pitch
Timbre
Texture
Structure
Ostinato
Soundscape
Compose / composition
Binary Form AB
Improvise
Compose / composition
Melody scale stave
Glockenspiel, Beater

Year 3 and 4

Rhythm tags (cow, monkey, cow, ar-
madillo, elephant rest)
Pace
Pulse
Tempo
Structure Ostinato
Binary (AB) Ternary (ABA)
Note/ notation evaluate
Compose/ composer / composition
Perform / performance/ performer
Instrument names of common un-
tuned percussion (woodblock, tam-
bour, drum, tambourine, triangle,
guiro, shaker etc.)
Glockenspiel, chime bar, xylophone
Orchestra Conductor/conduct
Orchestral instruments e.g. violin
Programme music
Dynamics
Piano / Forte
Crescendo /Diminuendo
Allegro / Largo
Improvise / improvising /
improvisation
Graphic notation

Year 5 & 6

Rhythm / Rhythm tags (cow, monkey,
cow, armadillo, elephant, anteater rest)

Pace	Pulse	Texture
Timbre	Tonality	Rhythm
Tempo	Structure	Ostinato
Minimalism	Melody	Lyrics
Pitch	forte	mezzo-forte
Compose/composing		
Notes C, F,G, Eb, F#		
Semibreve		
Sharp and flat notes		
Improvising / composing		
Chords/chord sequence		
Triads	Blues scale	
Binary (AB) Ternary (ABA) Rondo (ABACADAEA)		
Refrain / episode		
Note/ notation		
Drone	Moderato	Evaluate
Allegro	Tempo	Adagio