

Year 6, Unit 2 Overview

Developing Ensemble Skills

This unit of work is clearly sequenced with supporting **Lesson Plans**. For every year group, a **Key Learning** document represents the expected standard of musical learning that will build through each unit across the year. For a more in-depth explanation of the resources and documentation, please see the **Model Music Curriculum Scheme Guide** on the Scheme homepage.

Each unit has a **Musical Spotlight** and a **Social Question** (explained below) and sets out sequences of learning around songs in key musical areas. Over time, all of this contributes towards the steadily increasing development of musical learning. The music, **Musical Spotlights** and **Social Themes** all grow together to support the development of a whole, happy and musical child.

What is a Musical Spotlight?

Each unit of work has a **Musical Spotlight**. Just like the **Social Questions**, the **Musical Spotlights** deepen as the children move through the Scheme. They offer an opportunity for a musical focus in each unit and a way to deepen the children's musical knowledge and understanding. Each **Musical Spotlight** highlights a musical activity and/or musical element to be discussed, learnt about and integrated into each lesson of the unit. This can be done through the unit songs. Use the **Musical Spotlights** flexibly within each lesson. Tell your audience about them when introducing your performance.

***Extension Activities for Composition Years 3-6** and the **Song Writing in Years 5 and 6** documents support the teaching and learning of the Musical Spotlights.*

Unit Musical Spotlight: Developing Ensemble Skills

Explain the following to the children:

You are all used to singing and playing together in a band or ensemble now. You will have gained confidence, so when you are playing together in this unit make sure to use dynamics and expression, and read a notated instrumental part. Make sure you listen to one another and follow the leader if there is one.

By changing the dynamics of music, we can make the music more interesting. Sometimes, gradual changes from soft to loud ("crescendo") or from loud to soft ("decrescendo") can help make music more exciting.

What is a Social Question?

Each unit is centred around a **Social Question**, where children are encouraged to think deeply about the world, their communities and their relationships with others.

Unit Social Question: How Does Music Connect Us with Our Past?

In this unit, we ask, '**How Does Music Connect Us with Our Past?**'. The **Social Question** evolves as the children move through the scheme while encouraging them to be responsible and kind citizens of the

world. Please refer to this question as you move through each lesson within the unit. The songs in each unit have been carefully chosen to support the **Social Question**. Include the social element of the unit in your end-of-unit/year performances.

Examples of cross-curricular related topics:

- History
- Entertainment
- Storytelling
- Folklore
- Current events

Unit Activities and Supporting Documentation

Each unit is made up of the following activities:

Baseline Quiz (Unit 1 in each year only)

Activity 1: Musicianship Options:

1a. Understanding Music

1b. Improvise Together

Activity 2: Listen and Respond

Activity 3: Learn to Sing the Song

Activity 4: Play your Instruments with the Song

Activity 5: Composing and Improvising

(KS2 composition options include; Compose with the Song, Create a Graphic Score, Compose with a Theme, Music Notepad and Quickbeats)

Activity 6: Perform the Song

End of Unit/Year Quiz

Flexibility in the Unit Structure

The supporting documentation for this unit can be used flexibly. In order to support your approach to teaching and learning as well as the needs of your students, we have created a **Flexible Lesson Plan** and a **Flexible Unit Summary** grid which can be found on the unit homepage. These are editable and can be used at any stage throughout the year.

A Summary of Activities in this Unit

Step	Activity 1: Musicianship Options	Activity 2: Listen and Respond	Activity 3: Singing	Activity 4: Playing	Activity 5: Improvising and Composing	Activity 6: Performing
1	Option 1 Understanding Music Option 2 Improvise Together	My Best Friend by Joanna Mangona and Chris Taylor	My Best Friend by Joanna Mangona and Chris Taylor	Play instrumental parts	N/A	Perform and share what has taken place in the lesson
2	Option 1 Understanding Music Option 2 Improvise Together	Why? by Supaman	My Best Friend by Joanna Mangona and Chris Taylor	N/A	Option 1 Compose with the Song Option 2 Compose with a Theme: Rock Track Option 3 Music Notepad	Perform and share what has taken place in the lesson
3	Option 1 Understanding Music Option 2 Improvise Together	Singing Swinging Star by Joanna Mangona and Chris Madin, arranged by Chris Taylor	Singing Swinging Star by Joanna Mangona and Chris Madin, arranged by Chris Taylor	Play instrumental parts	N/A	Perform and share what has taken place in the lesson
4	Option 1 Understanding Music Option 2 Improvise Together	The Rite Of Spring, Pt. 1 Adoration Of The Earth - No. 1 Introduction by Igor Stravinsky	Option 1 Singing Swinging Star by Joanna Mangona and Chris Madin, arranged by Chris Taylor Option 2 My Best Friend by Joanna Mangona and Chris Taylor	N/A	Improvise with the Song	Perform and share what has taken place in the lesson
5	Option 1 Understanding Music Option 2 Improvise Together	Roll Alabama arranged by Chris Taylor	Roll Alabama arranged by Chris Taylor	N/A	N/A	Perform and share what has taken place in the lesson
6	Option 1 Understanding Music Option 2 Improvise Together	Why? by Supamani	Revisit a song of your choice from this unit	Play instrumental parts with your chosen song, if available	Option to revisit Improvise and Compose activities	Perform and share what has taken place in the lesson and prepare for a concert