

# Fulwood Academy- KS3 Grade Descriptors- Music



Grade	Skill/Performance	Creativity/Composition	Music Theory/Knowledge	Listening and Appraising
1	Demonstrates basic understanding of instrumental or vocal techniques. Can perform simple rhythms or melodies with some inaccuracies.	Uses limited creativity in musical ideas. Compositions are basic with few or no original elements.	Identifies basic music elements like pitch and rhythm. Limited understanding of musical notation.	Can identify a few instruments or musical features in simple pieces with guidance.
2	Adequate performance of simple rhythms and melodies. Some consistency in instrumental or vocal control, but accuracy varies.	Demonstrates basic creativity in composition, using simple structures (e.g., ABA form). Some original ideas but lacks development.	Shows an understanding of basic musical terms (e.g., tempo, dynamics) and can apply them with guidance.	Identifies basic musical elements like tempo and dynamics in familiar pieces. Can describe music in simple terms.
3	Performs with increasing accuracy and control. Can play or sing with a developing sense of rhythm and melody.	Compositions show a clear structure and some originality. Attempts to use musical devices like repetition or contrast.	Understands and applies common notation and can explain basic musical elements (e.g., melody, harmony).	Identifies a range of instruments and musical features. Starts to express opinions about music using simple terminology.
4	Performs with confidence and accuracy in most parts. Shows control over dynamics and articulation.	Compositions include varied musical ideas and demonstrate a good grasp of form and structure.	Displays good understanding of musical notation and terminology. Can explain how elements like melody and harmony interact.	Able to compare pieces of music, identifying stylistic features and using appropriate musical vocabulary.
5	Performs fluently and accurately, with well-controlled dynamics and expression. Shows technical proficiency.	Compositions show originality and effective use of musical elements (e.g., melody, harmony, dynamics).	Has a thorough understanding of notation and can analyze how musical elements are used in compositions.	Analyzes and critiques music with increasing depth. Understands how historical context affects musical style and interpretation.
6	Performs complex pieces with precision, control, and expression. Demonstrates high levels of technical ability.	Compositions are highly creative, showing a sophisticated understanding of form, structure, and musical devices.	Mastery of music theory, including advanced notation, harmony, and form. Can analyze and apply complex musical concepts.	Provides detailed analysis and critique of a wide range of musical styles. Understands how composers achieve specific effects and communicates this using appropriate terminology.

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