

**Updated September
2025 CGD**

Overview of Music Curriculum for Year 7, 8 and 9

Introduction

In response to the demands of the national curriculum for Music, our school has meticulously designed a bespoke sequence for learning for Year 7, 8 and 9 drawing on insights from the model music curriculum. The curriculum also serves as a preparatory pathway for the WJEC Eduqas Level 1/2 Performing Arts (Music Approach).

Curriculum Structure and Approach

Students engage in two music lessons a fortnight, supplemented by a comprehensive homework assignment twice per half term that deepens their understanding of current topics through comprehension and multiple-choice questions. The curriculum is organised around five main strands: Singing, Performing, Composing, Listening and Music Technology. Each strand integrates specific end points and component knowledge that are systematically assessed to ensure progression and mastery.

Year 7 Curriculum

Topic 1: Find Your Voice

Students explore their vocal abilities and develop basic singing skills.

End Points:

- Demonstrate the ability to sing a basic melodic line.
- Demonstrate the ability to sing in a 3 and 4 Part Round
- Know how to Look after the Voice

Topic 2: Becoming a Musician

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Students develop foundational skills on the keyboard and learn basic music notation.

End Points:

- Demonstrate the ability to sing a basic Melodic Line
- Demonstrate the ability to Play Simple Phrases on the Keyboard
- Demonstrate the ability to play Basic Chord Shapes on the Keyboard
- Know how to Read Short Rhythmic Phrases using Music Notation
- Know how to identify each instrument family
- Know how to Identify Musical Elements

Topic 3: Classical Remix

Students are introduced to classical music and learn to remix using modern techniques.

End Points:

- Know how to use a Computer Workstation
- Know how to use the basic Functions of a DAW
- Demonstrate basic Structural Ideas
- Know how to identify each instrument family

Topic 4: Programme Music

Students learn to create music that tells a story or depicts an image.

End Points:

- Know how to Compose basic Melodies and Rhythms
- Know how to Compose with a basic awareness of Tonality and Harmony
- Demonstrate basic Structural Ideas
- Demonstrate basic Improvisation
- Know how to use a Computer Workstation
- Know how to use the basic Functions of a DAW

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Topic 5: Uke' Can Play

Students learn to play the ukulele and develop ensemble performance skills.

End Points:

- Demonstrate the ability to sing a basic Melodic Line
- Know how to Look after the Voice
- Demonstrate the ability to Play basic Chord Transitions on the Ukulele
- Demonstrate the ability to play Basic Chord Shapes on the Keyboard
- Know how to Read Short Rhythmic Phrases using Music Notation

Year 8 Curriculum

Topic 1: Film Music

Students explore the role of music in film and develop composing skills.

End Points:

- Know how to compose with developing use of Tonality & Harmony
- Demonstrate composing a simple melodic line
- Demonstrate simple structural ideas
- Demonstrate simple improvisation skills
- Know how to set up a computer workstation
- Know how to use the functions of a DAW

Topic 2: Grime Music

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Students learn the basics of songwriting, through Grime music by coming melodic hooks and riffs using a DAW (Cubase)

End Points:

- Know how to compose with developing use of Tonality & Harmony
- Demonstrate composing a simple melodic line
- Demonstrate simple structural ideas
- Know how to set up a computer workstation
- Know how to use the functions of a DAW
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Topic 3: Samba

Students engage with samba music and develop rhythmic skills.

End Points:

- Demonstrate the ability to play simple accompaniment on the selected band instrument as part of an ensemble
- Read simple phrases using pitch and rhythmic notation
- Demonstrate simple structural ideas
- Demonstrate simple improvisation skills
- Know how to identify individual Instruments

Topic 4: Hooks and Riffs

Students study popular music hooks and riffs, learning to play and sing famous hooks and riffs.

End Points:

- Demonstrate the ability to sing a melodic line
- Demonstrate the ability to sing in 2 or 3 parts
- Demonstrate looking after the voice
- Demonstrate the ability to playing melodies on the keyboard
- Demonstrate the ability to play simple chord shapes on the keyboard

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- Read simple phrases using pitch and rhythmic notation

Topic 5: Battle of the Bands

Students form ensembles and prepare for a performance, focusing on band dynamics and cohesion.

End Points:

- Demonstrate the ability to sing a melodic line
- Demonstrate the ability to play simple accompaniment on the selected band instrument as part of an ensemble
- Know how to identify individual Instruments
- Know how to identify Musical Elements within a piece of music
- Know the meaning and purpose of music being listened to

Year 9 Curriculum

Topic 1: EDM (Electronic Dance Music)

Students learn how to create and produce electronic music using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).

End Points:

- Set up a computer workstation and an Audio Interface.
- Know how to use the advanced functions of a DAW
- Demonstrate developed use of structural ideas
- Demonstrate developed use of improvisation

Topic 2: Extended Song Writing

Students develop advanced songwriting skills, focusing on structure and melodic development.

End Points:

- Know how to compose with extending use of Tonality & Harmony
- Demonstrate composing a developed melodic line
- Demonstrate developed use of structural ideas

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- Demonstrate developed use of improvisation
- Know how to set up a computer workstation
- Know how to use the advanced functions of a DAW

Topic 3: Reggae:

Students enhance their listening skills, focusing on identifying musical elements and their impact.

End Points:

- Demonstrate the ability to play chord inversions on the keyboard
- Read simple phrases using pitch and rhythmic notation on the treble and bass clef
- Demonstrate the ability to play/sing a set song on the selected band instrument
- Demonstrate the ability to play as part of an ensemble with good musicianship

Topic 4: Set Song

Students develop skills playing and singing set songs as part of an ensemble.

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End Points:

- Demonstrate the ability to play melodies on the keyboard using two staves
- Demonstrate the ability to play chord inversions on the keyboard
- Read simple phrases using pitch and rhythmic notation on the treble and bass clef
- Demonstrate the ability to play/sing a set song on the selected band instrument as part of an ensemble
- Demonstrate the ability to discuss in impact that musical elements with a piece of music have on the listener
- Know how to identify individual Instruments within a piece of music
- Demonstrate a developed understanding of the meaning and purpose of the music being listened to

Topic 5: Band on the Wall

Students form ensembles and prepare for performances, focusing on the final performance as year 9 students.

End Points:

- Demonstrate the ability to play a set song on the selected band instrument as part of an ensemble
- Read simple phrases using pitch and rhythmic notation on the treble and bass clef
- Demonstrate the ability to play/sing a set song on the selected band instrument as part of an ensemble

Mastery Model and Progression

Our curriculum operates on a mastery model, emphasising continuous skill development and increasing challenge across each year group. By progressively building on foundational skills and techniques, students gain a thorough understanding of music's technical and creative aspects, preparing them not only for academic success but also for practical applications in future musical endeavours.

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Through our tailored curriculum for Year 7, 8 and 9 Music, students engage deeply with performing, composing, singing, listening, and music technology, underpinned by strong links to the Music national curriculum and alignment with the Model Music Curriculum. This approach broadens students' artistic and academic horizons and equips them with essential skills in communication, creativity, and critical thinking, vital for their musical development.

The strands of performing, composing, singing, listening, and music technology in our Year 7, 8 and 9 Music curriculum have been meticulously crafted to provide a comprehensive framework that addresses the core skills and techniques essential for student development. This methodical approach ensures a cohesive and balanced curriculum that aligns closely with our overarching goal of fostering a deep understanding of music that supports students' broader academic and artistic growth.

Building upon these foundational strands, we constructed distinct topics for each year group, fostering a mastery approach that supports continuous skill development and increasing complexity. Each topic revisits and reinforces key skills while progressively increasing the challenge level, ensuring that students not only deepen their understanding and proficiency in music but also develop resilience and confidence in tackling increasingly complex musical challenges throughout their academic journey.

Endpoints Per Music Stand:

The diagrams are organised into the key areas of music: Singing, Performing, Composing, and Listening, as set out in the Model Music Curriculum. In addition, Music Technology has been included as a separate strand, recognising its significance in composition, live performance, and in supporting progression at KS4, KS5, higher education, and within the wider music industry.

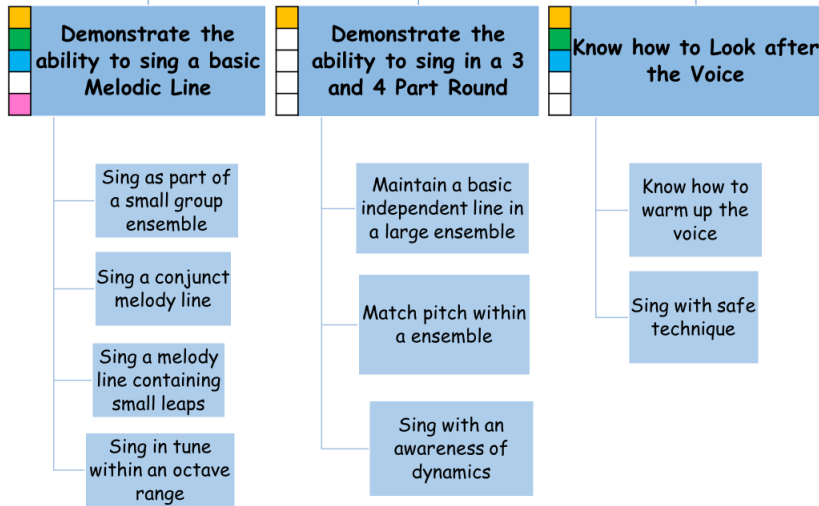
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Year 7

Singing

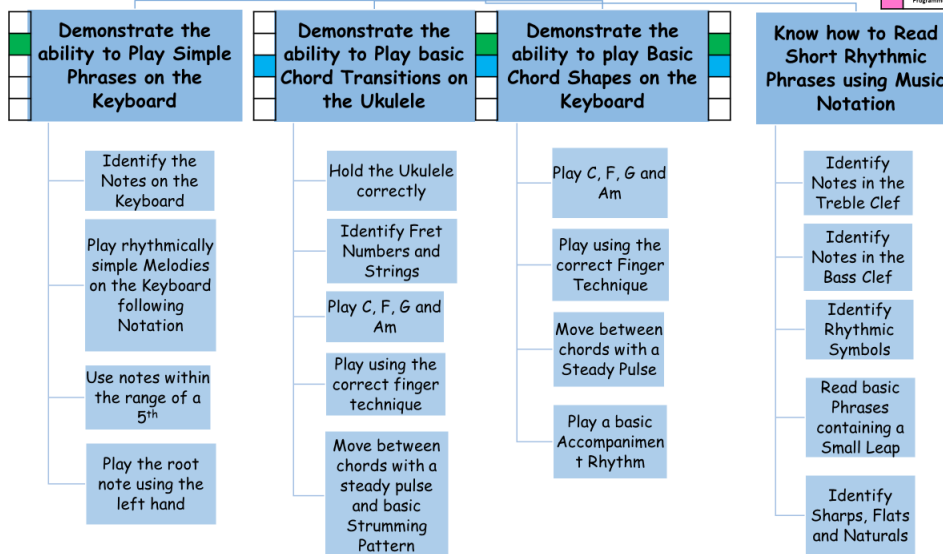
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	Becoming A Musician
	Uke/ Can Play
	Classical Remix
	Programme Music



Year 7

Performing

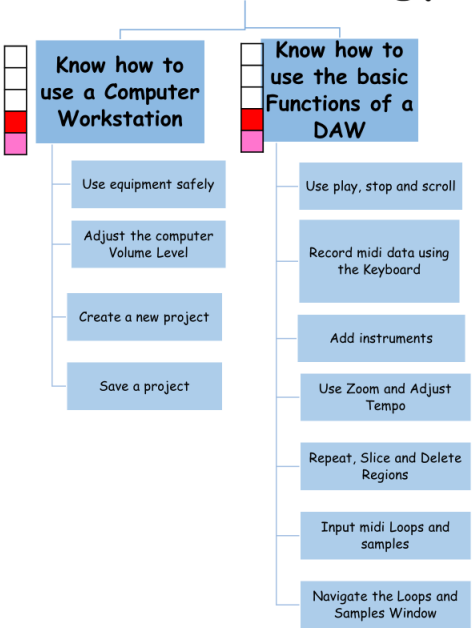
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	Becoming A Musician
	Uke/ Can Play
	Classical Remix
	Programme Music





Year 7

Music Technology



	Find Your Voice
	Becoming A Musician
	Use' Can Play
	Classical Remix
	Programme Music

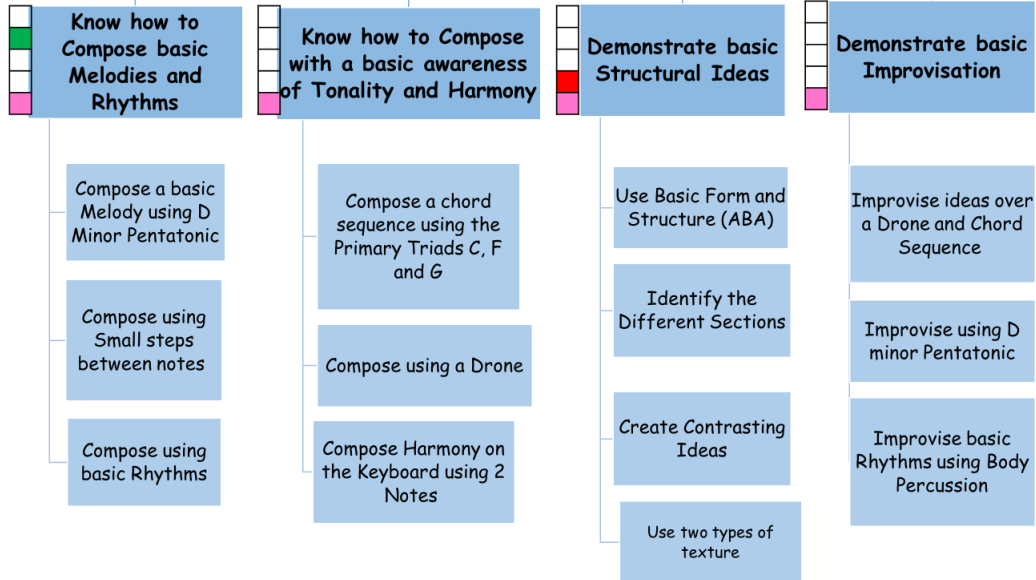
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Year 7

Composing

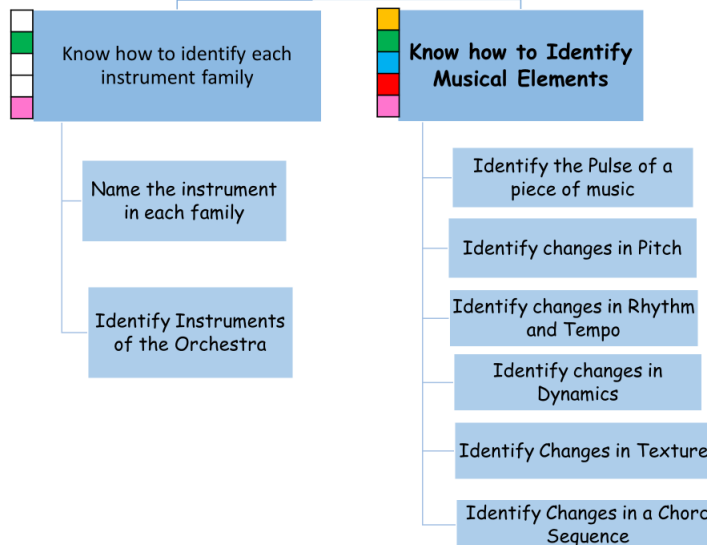
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	Becoming A Musician
	Use Can Play
	Classical Remix
	Programme Music



Year 7

Listening

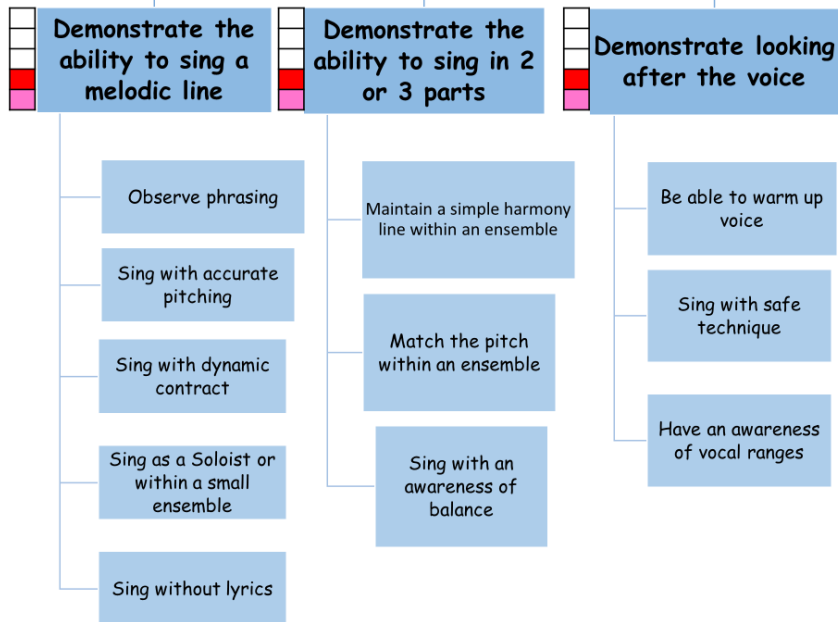
	Find Your Voice
	Becoming A Musician
	Use Can Play
	Classical Remix
	Programme Music





Year 8

Singing

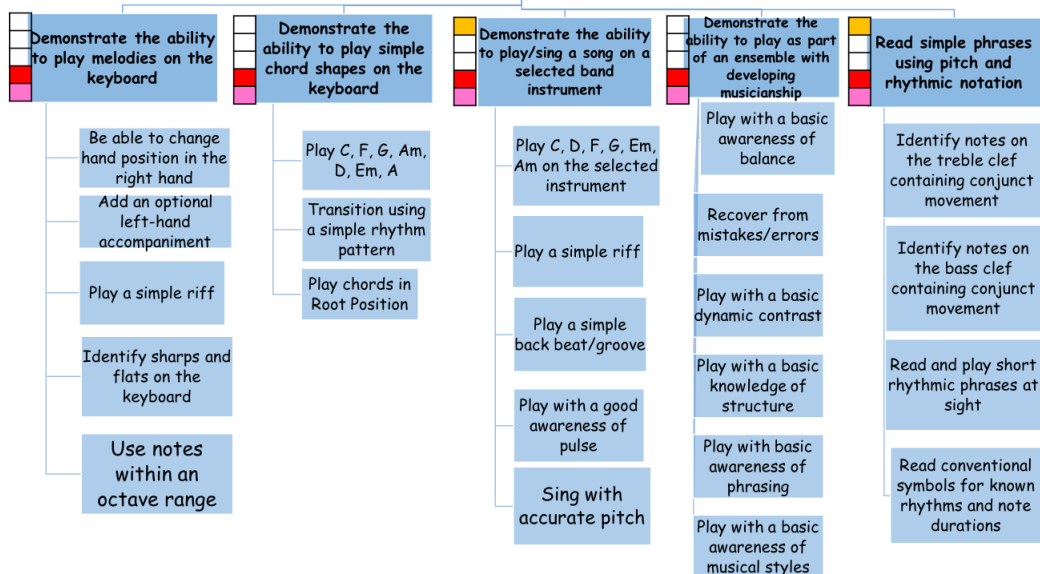


	Samba
	Film Music
	Grime Music
	Battle of the Bands
	Hooks and Riffs



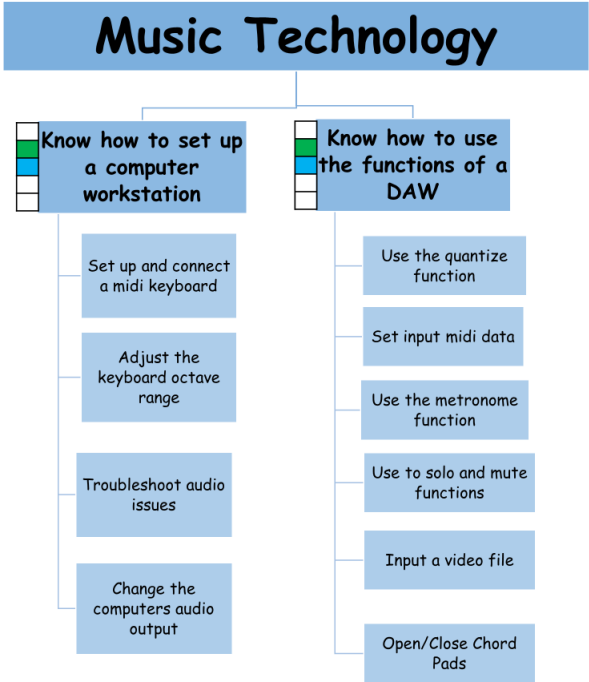
Year 8

Performing





Year 8

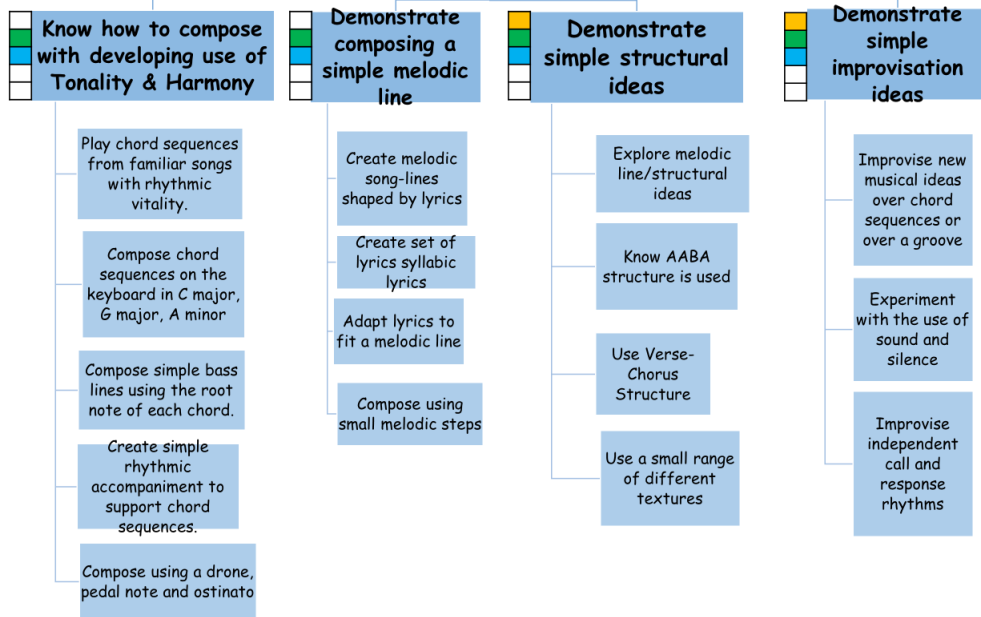


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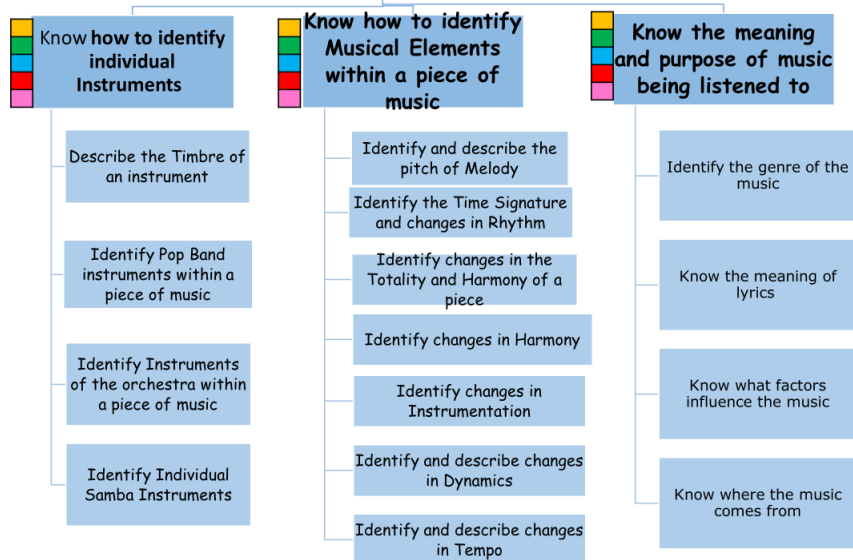
Year 8

Composing



Year 8

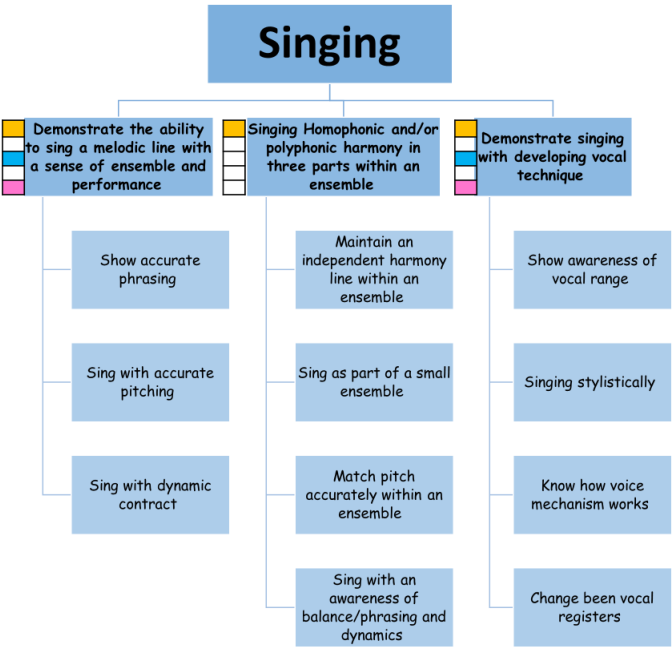
Listening



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Year 9

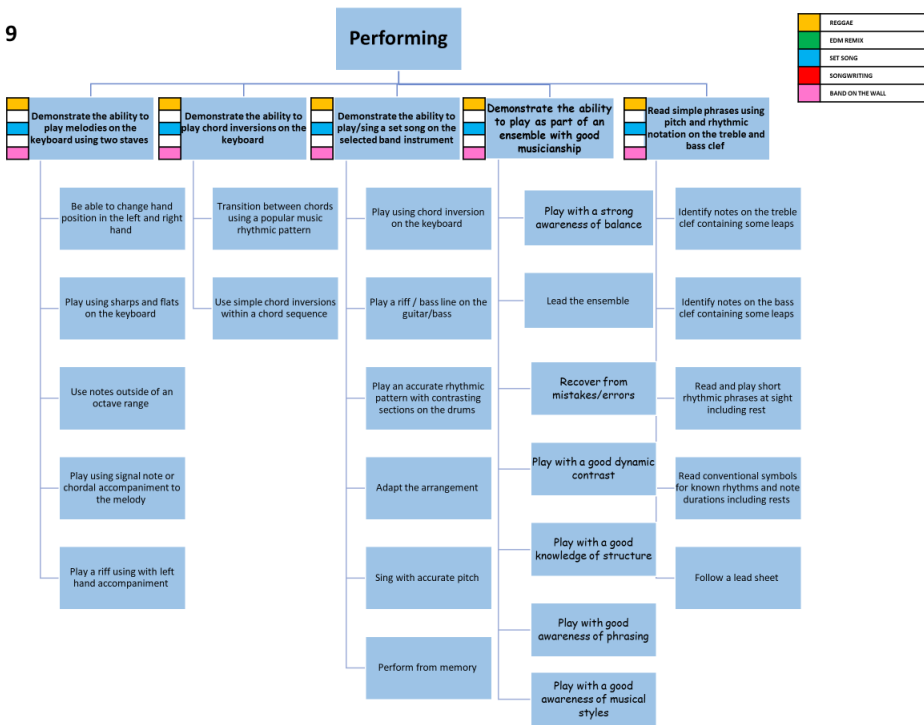


	REGGAE
	EDM REMIX
	SET SONG
	SCHÖNWRITING
	BAND ON THE WALL

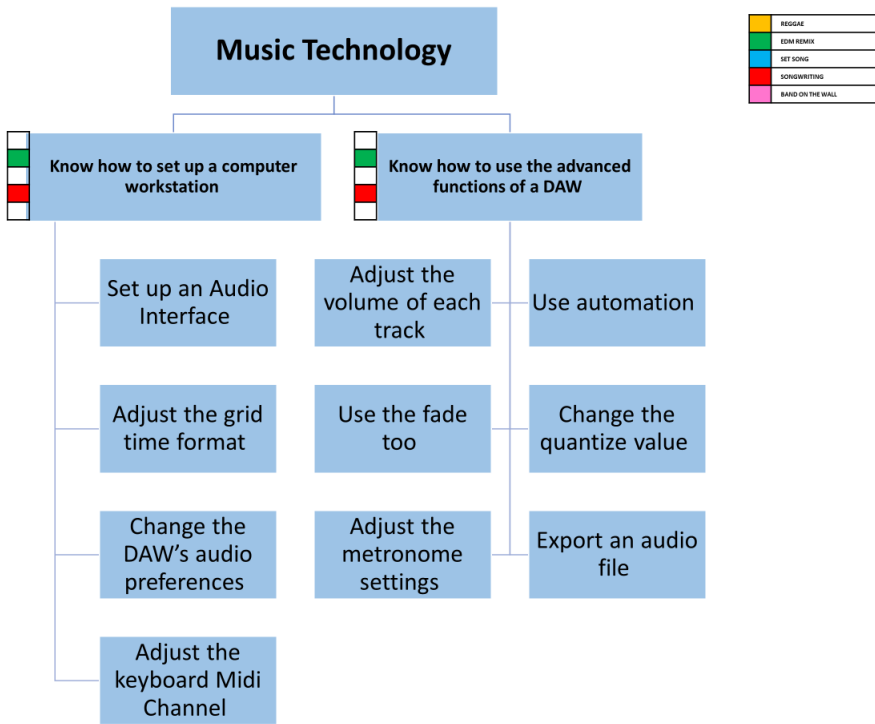
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Year 9



Year 9

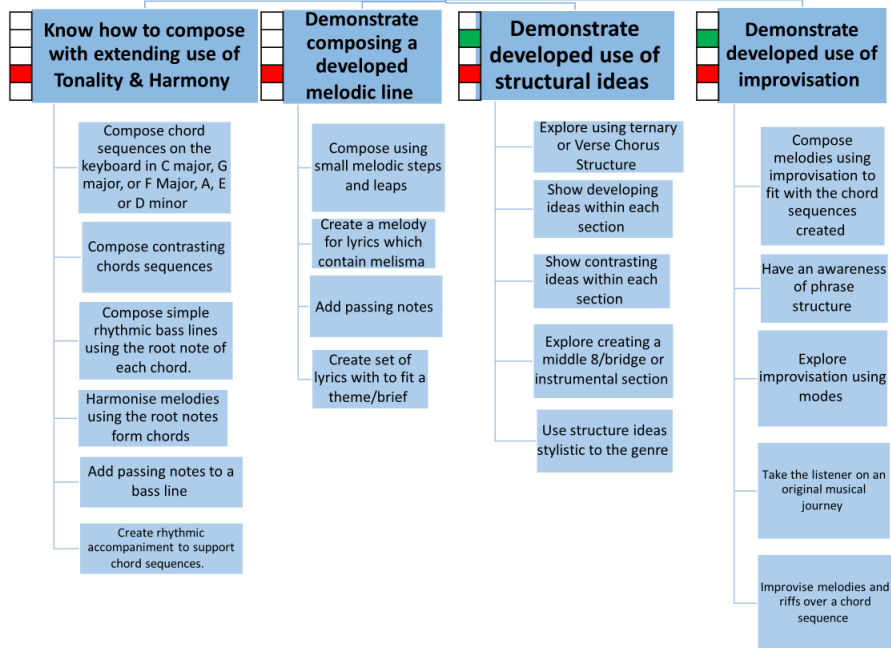


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Year 9

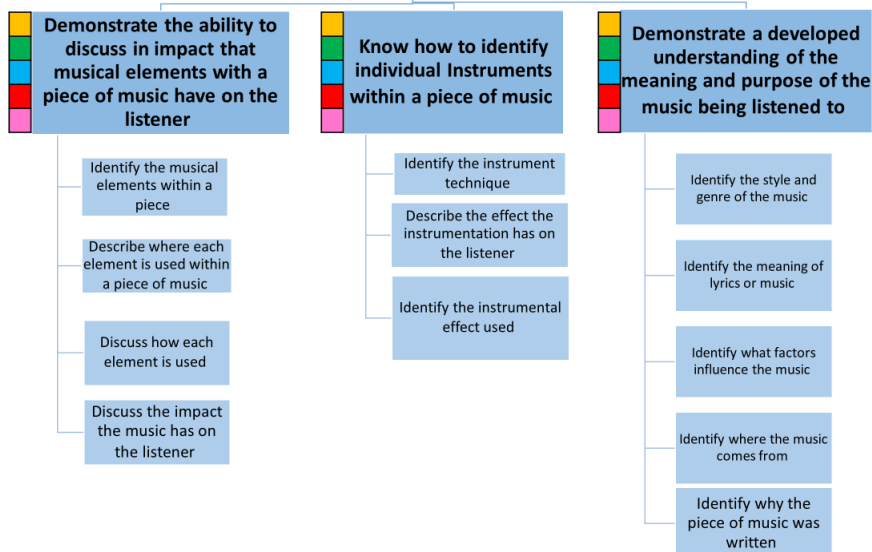
Composing



Year 9

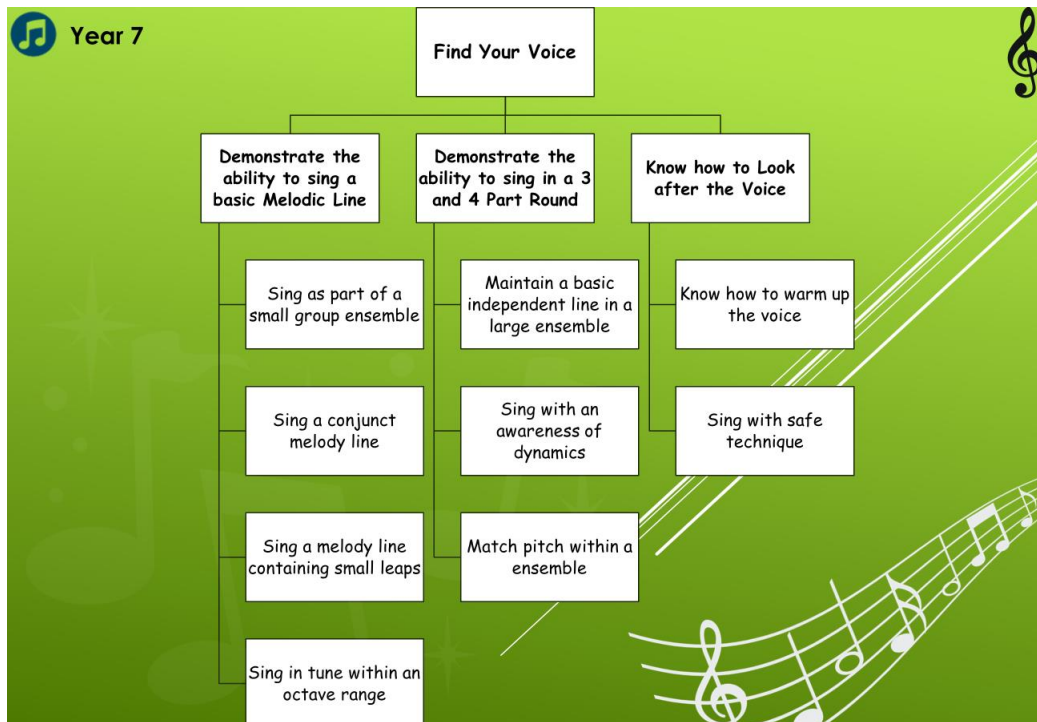
Listening

Yellow	REGGAE
Green	EDM REMIX
Blue	SET SONG
Red	SCHWARTZING
Pink	BAND ON THE WALL

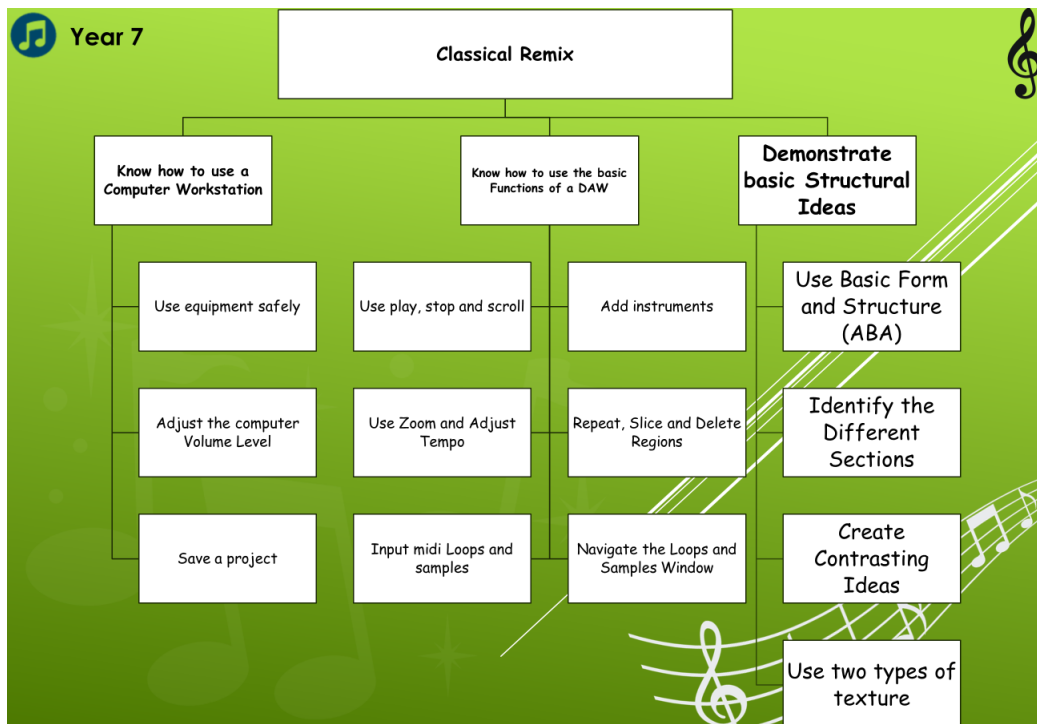
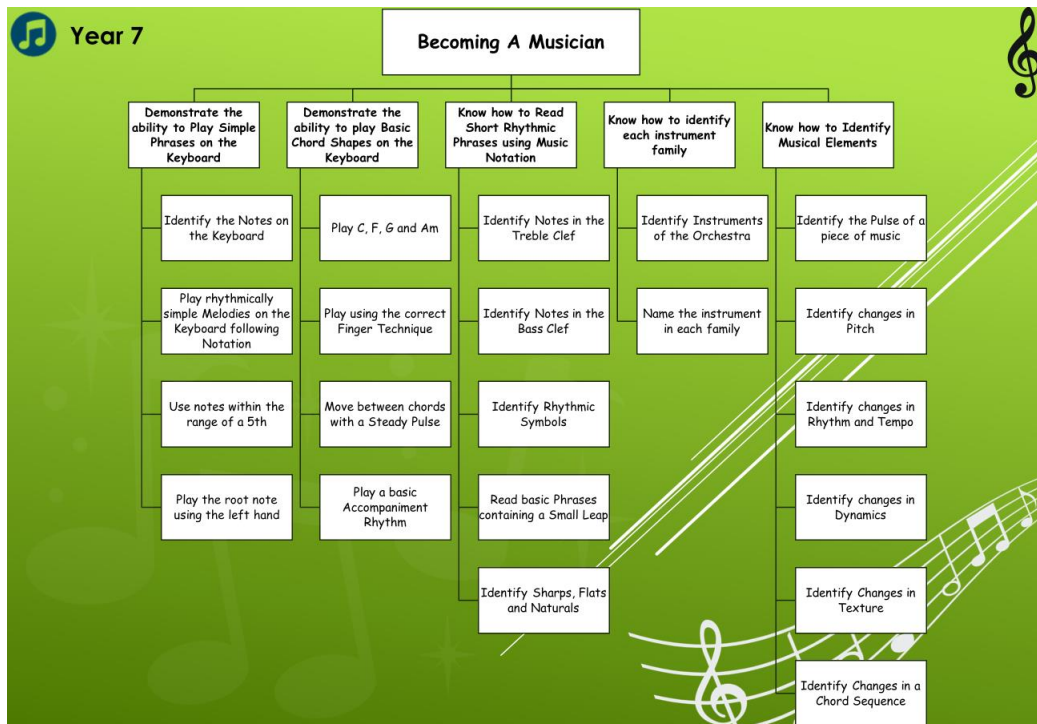


The following diagrams outline which end points are assessed on through practical work or project based creation through each topic.

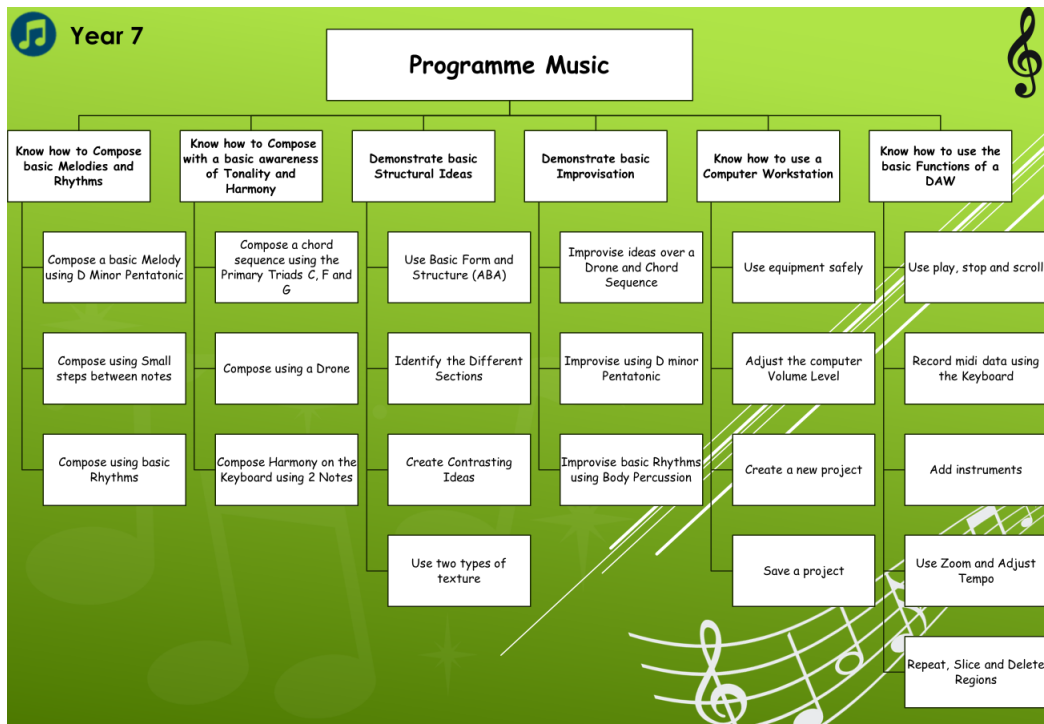
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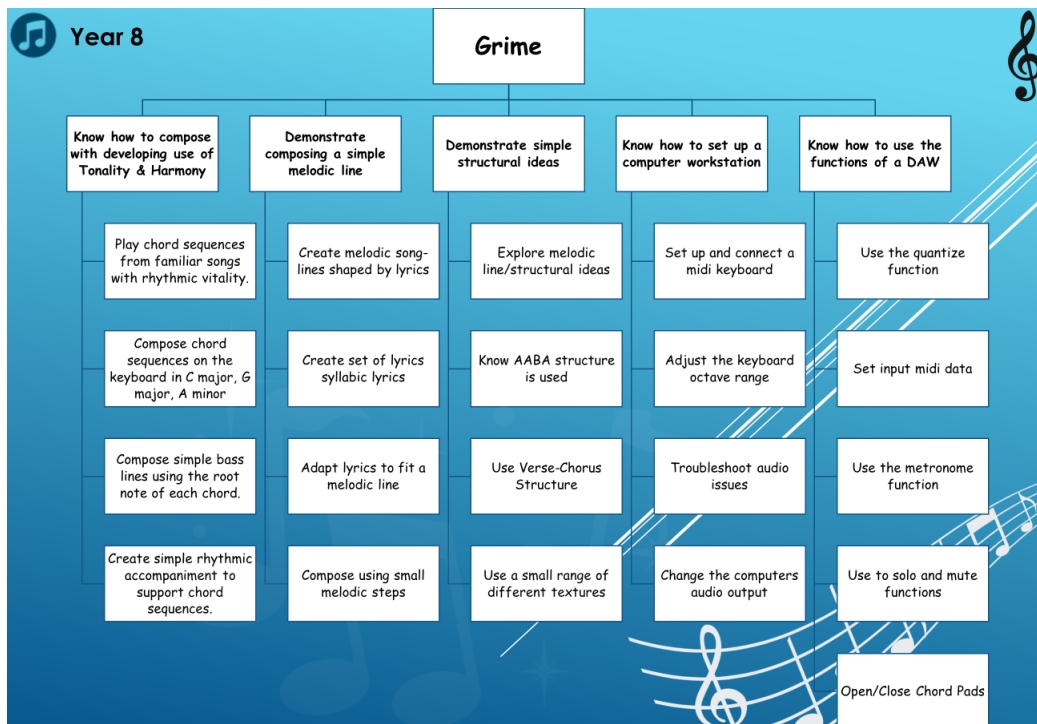
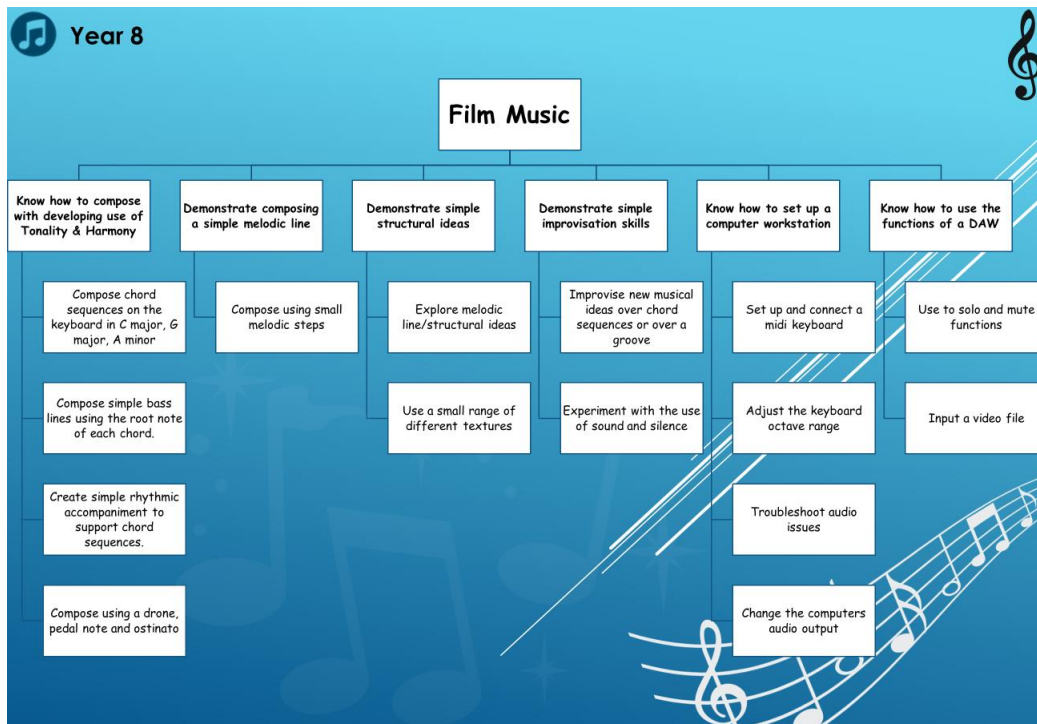
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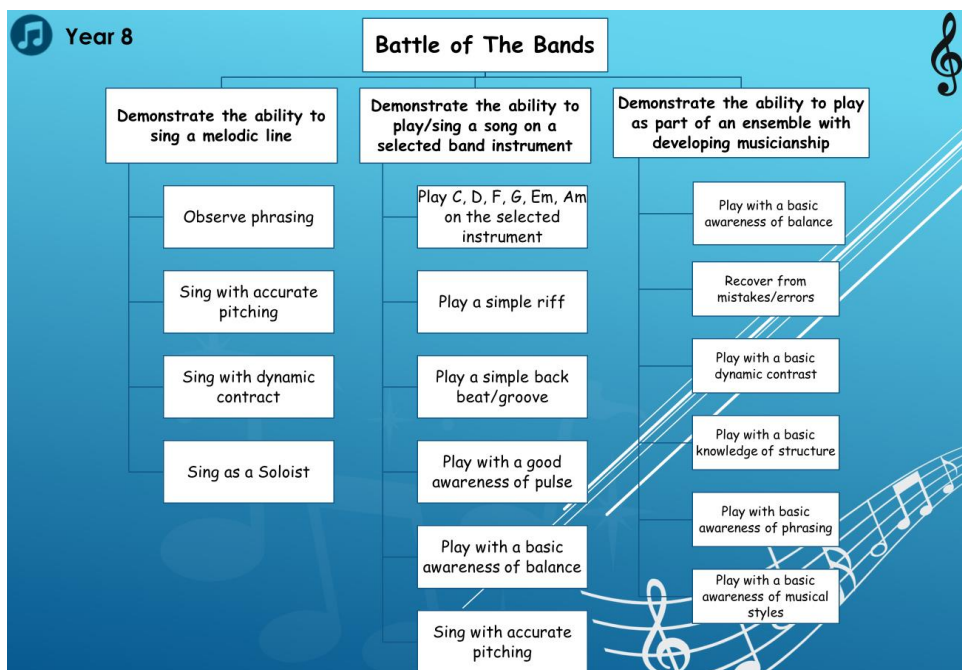
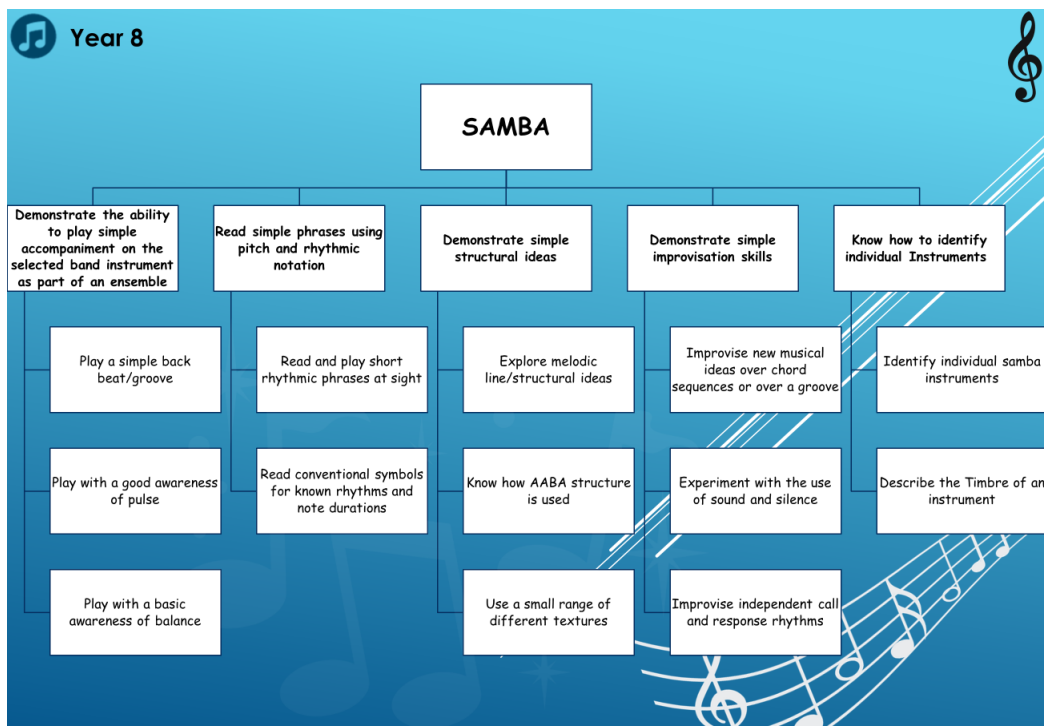
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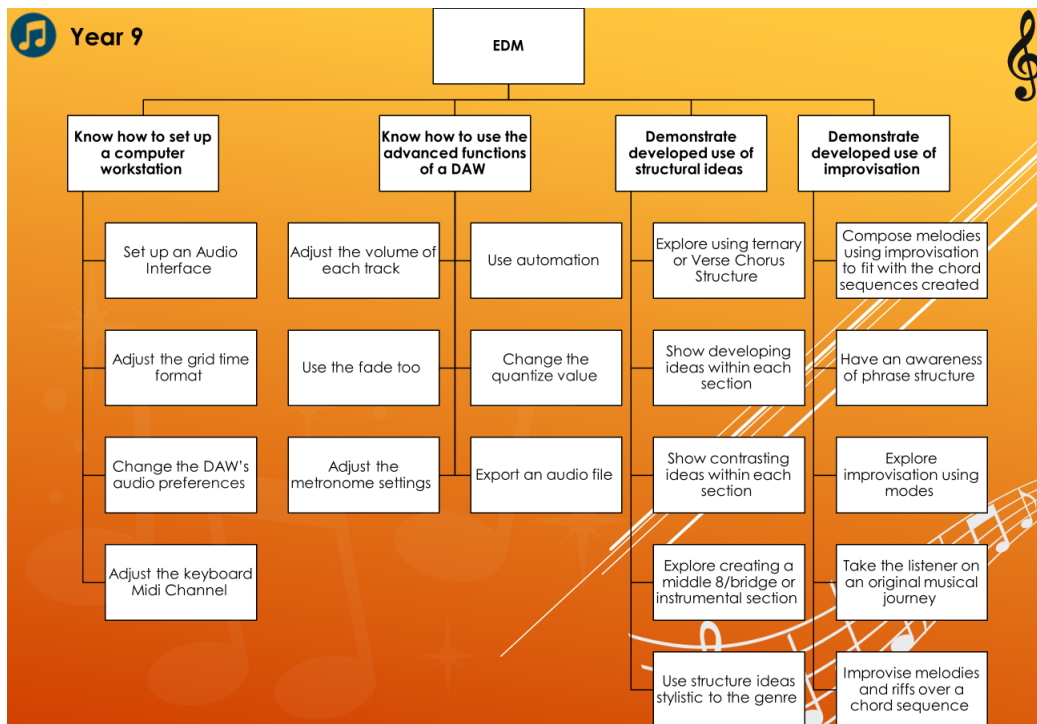
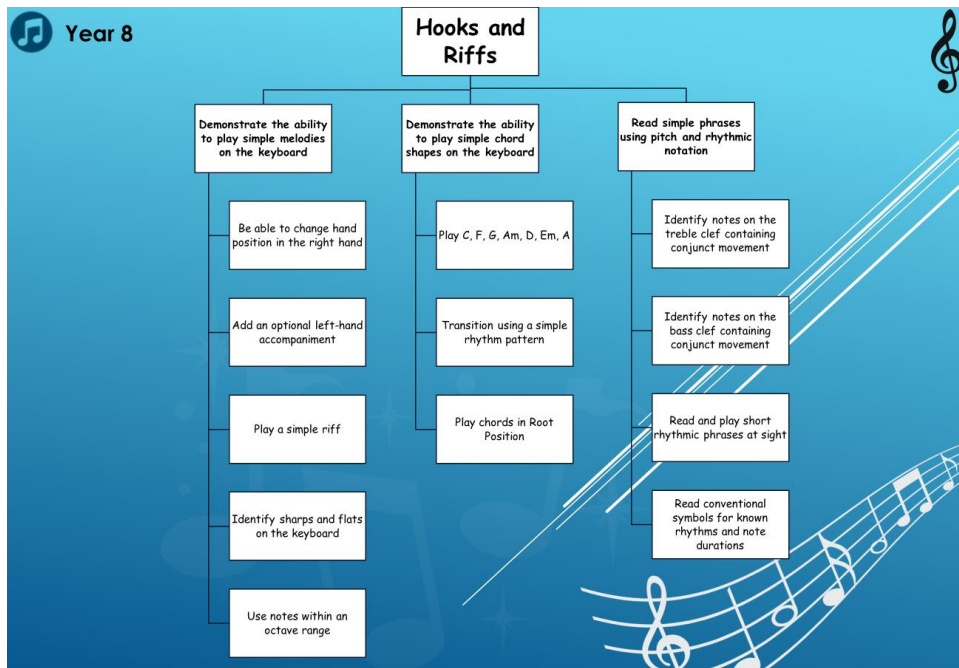
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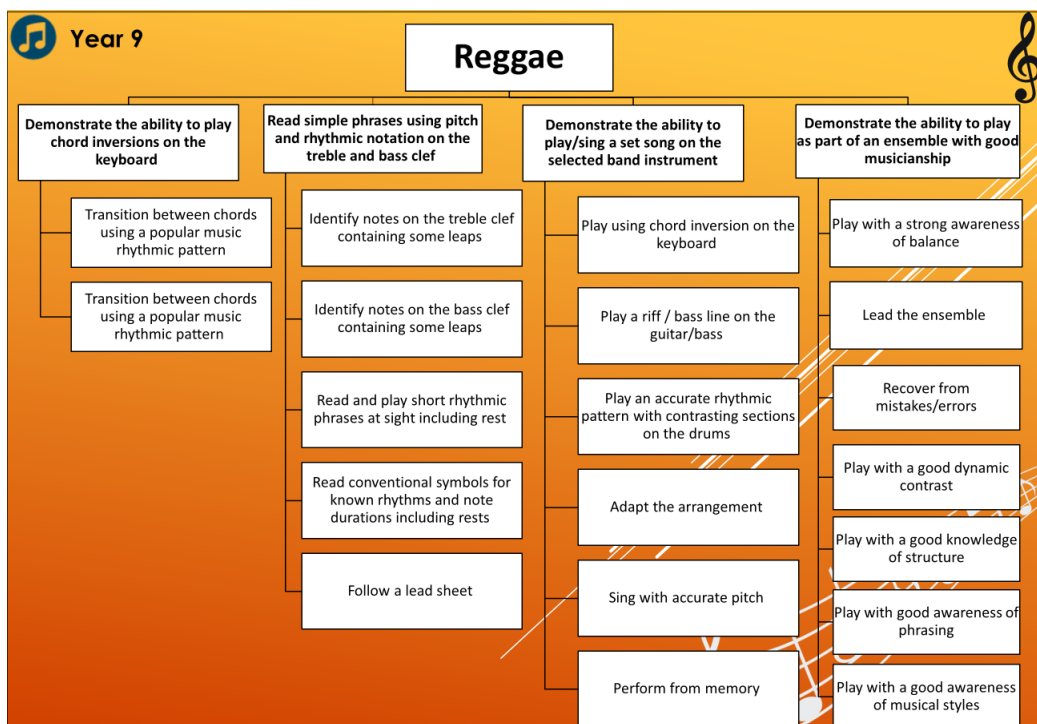
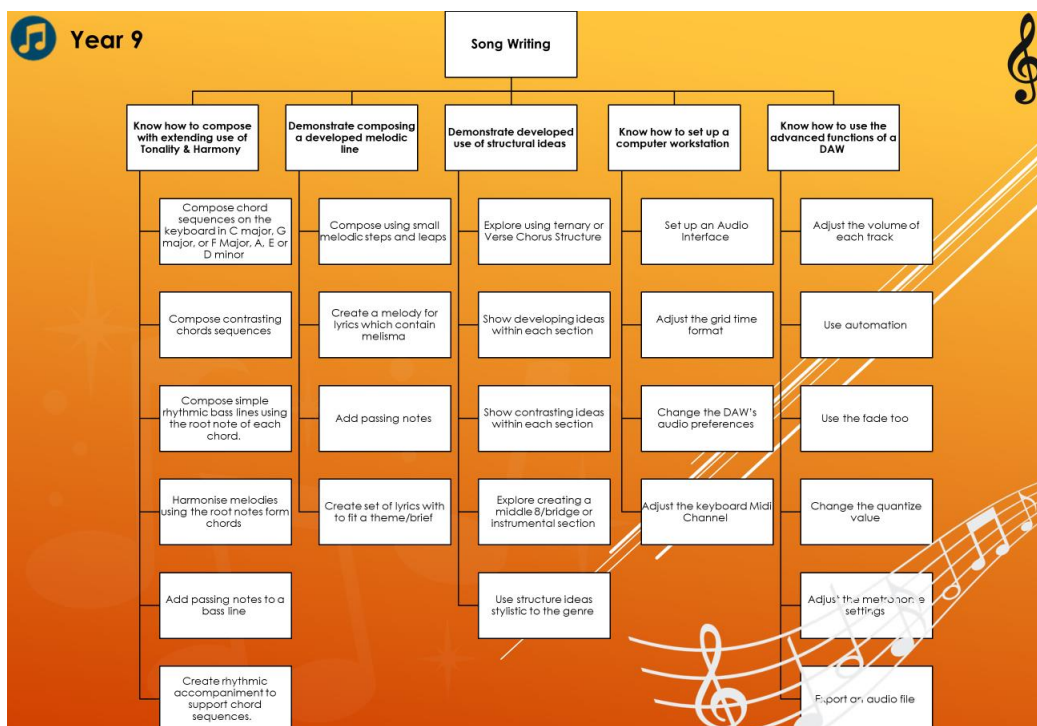
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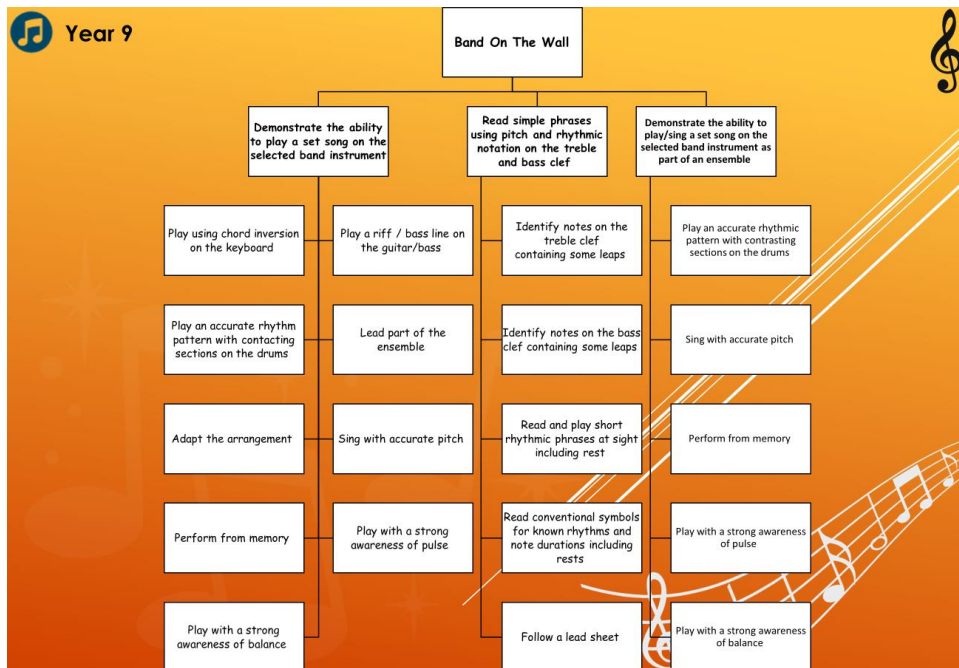
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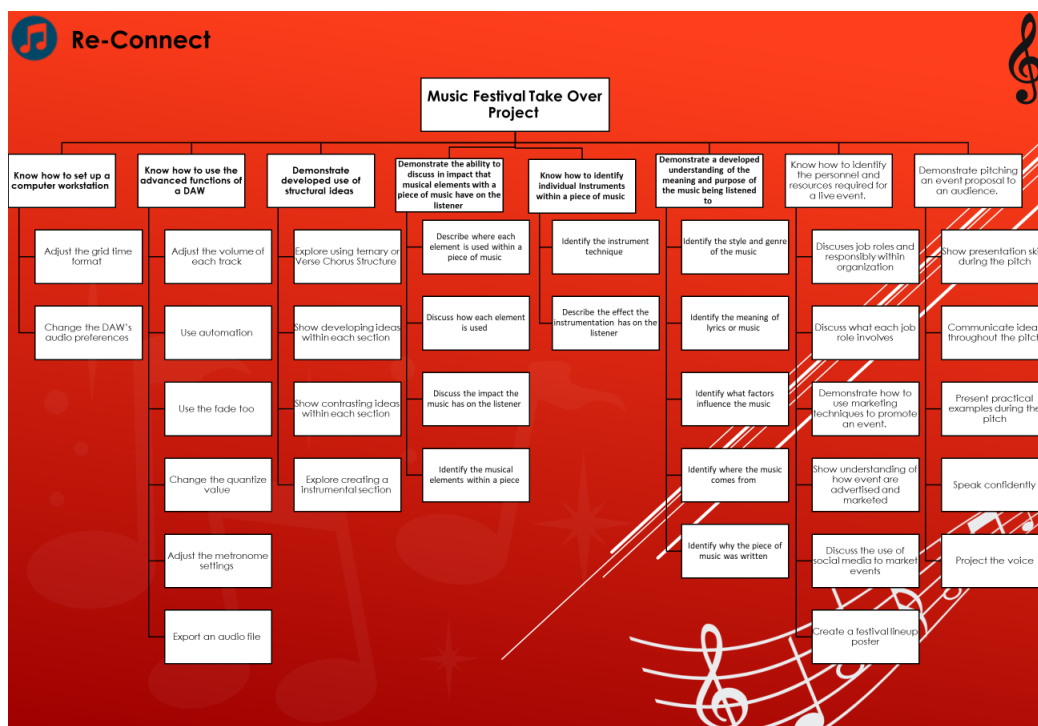
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This overview outlines the scope, objectives, and educational rationale behind the Year 7, 8 and 9 Music curriculum, emphasising its integration with broader educational goals and future pathways in music and performing arts.