An inclusive framework of musical engagement

Sounds of Intent is a model of musical development that sets out how we all engage with music, from children in the early years to older people with dementia, from those with profound learning difficulties who are still learning to process sound, to others who are regarded as advanced musicians in their culture.

Sounds of Intent Framework (SOI Framework)

Sounds of Intent identifies six levels of musical engagement that occur sequentially in human development. Their usual age of occurrence is shown below, together with the levels of disability likely to be associated with each form of musical engagement in older children, young people and adults.

Level	Name	Description	Age of 'neurotypical' occurrence	Associated level of disability
1	learning to hear	before hearing gets going	prior to three months before birth	coma or vegetative state; the most profound learning difficulties
2	sounds interesting	sound is heard or made as a purely sensory experience	from three months before birth to around nine months	profound learning difficulties
3	copy me copy you	recognising simple patterns: anticipating and copying	from around nine months to around 15 months	severe or profound learning difficulties; may include autism
4	bits of pieces	hearing and creating groups of sounds as meaningful units of musical information, such as ringtones, motifs and riffs	from around 15 months to around 33 months	moderate or severe learning difficulties; may include autism
5	whole songs	intuitively understanding simple musical structures; singing short songs in time and in tune; playing relatively simple pieces	from around 33 months onwards	moderate or severe learning difficulties; may include autism
6	the wider world of music	appreciating music in a mature way as a language of the emotions; performing persuasively within a familiar culture, potentially at an advanced level	in the teenage years	moderate or severe learning difficulties; may include autism

These levels should not be thought of as 'stages', in which one set of abilities replaces another; rather, each level builds on those that precede as children grow up and adults with learning difficulties mature. Typically, people engage with music at several different levels at once: listening to the quality of the sounds that are made; intuitively picking up on momentto-moment patterns, and hearing how notes form recognisable groups; following the narratives of pieces as a whole as they unfold in time, and being aware of their place in a wider musical culture.

Domains

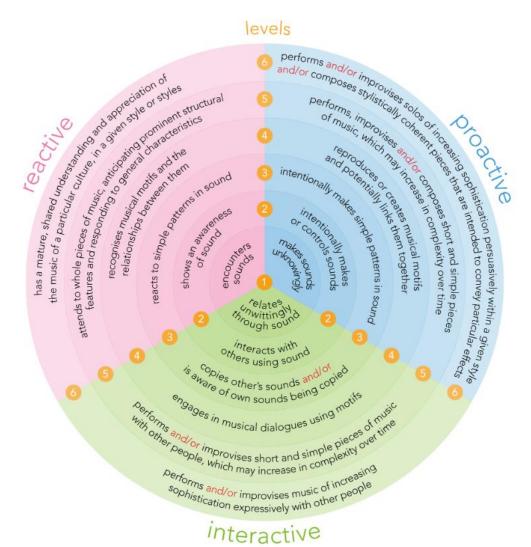
In addition to these six levels, Sounds of Intent identifies three different ways in which people engage with music, called 'domains'. These are 'reactive', 'proactive' and 'interactive', and are consistently colour-coded as follows:

Domain	Abbreviation	Description
reactive	R	listening and responding to sounds and music
proactive	Ρ	making sounds, singing and playing alone
interactive	T	making sounds and music with other people

Circular Figure

Mapping these three domains onto the six levels yields eighteen 'headlines' of musical engagement. These can be represented as segments in concentric circles, as shown in the figure below. The expanding circles are intended as a metaphor for musical growth, moving from individuals with little or no awareness of themselves at the centre to sophisticated cultural participants at the outer ring.

Each segment breaks down into four more detailed 'elements', labelled 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', to you help gauge an individual's capacity to engage with music (through formative assessment) and to plan activities accordingly.



The Sounds of Intent Framework of Musical Development

Music in EYFS

Our vision is to develop well rounded, confident and responsible individuals who aspire to achieve their full potential. We will do this by providing a welcoming, happy, safe, and supportive learning environment in which everyone is equal and all achievements are celebrated. The EYFS vision is reflective of the whole school values of child centred, aspirational, innovation, togetherness and communication and used to support the overarching principles set out in the EYFS statutory framework the unique child, positive relationships, enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, and the importance of learning and development. Villa Real School EYFS are child centred to provide the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential, from whatever their unique starting points may be. We offer bespoke, personalised, inclusive, enabling environments within which the children can learn, develop and take risks to further enhance their independence. Staff promote a love of learning through our engaging topic-

Villa Real School EYFS KS1 to KS4

Music Scheme of Work based on Sounds of Intent

based curriculum. We create both indoor and outdoor environments that foster personal, social and emotional development appropriate for all. Villa Real School EYFS is both aspirational and realistic, fostering a 'can do' approach to all areas of development, with open expectations - there is no limit to what the children and staff can achieve. We foster good self-esteem through focusing on what the children can do with some support today, allowing the staff to withdraw gradually, to allow then to achieve more with greater independence over time. The children make excellent progress, taking into account their different developmental starting points and learn at different rates due to the responsive and aspirational nature of the teaching delivered. Villa Real School EYFS are innovative and champion new initiatives that will positively impact the learning of our children, the knowledge and ability of our staff and support for the parents and wider community. EYFS staff push 3 boundaries in order to develop dynamic and creative solutions, sharing knowledge, research and resources to best meet the needs of the children. Villa Real School EYFS staff model and promote the learning of 'togetherness'. The staff within the key stages are flexible and share their own areas of expertise with one another to the benefit of all. We pride ourselves on our equality and diversity practices, where all are valued, welcomed and supported.

Sounds of Intent In EYFS

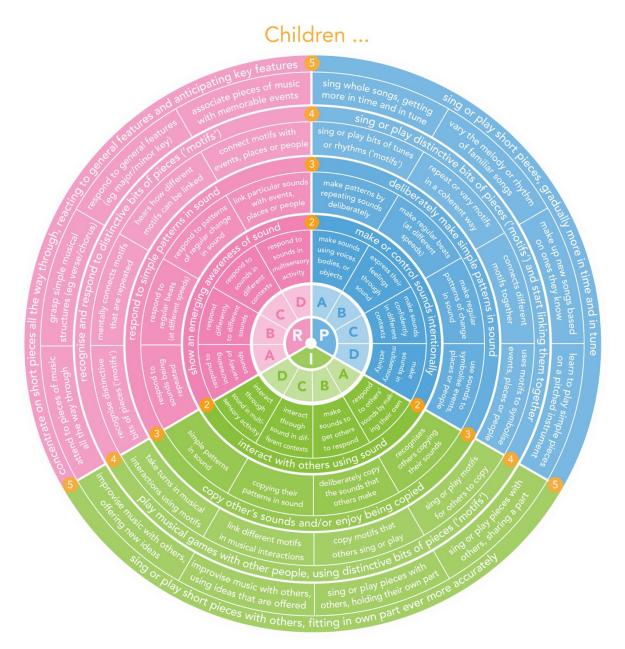
Sounds of Intent in the Early Years' developed as a natural extension of the main Sounds of Intent project in the second decade of the 21st century.



The Sounds of Intent in the Early Years Framework of Musical Development

The Sounds of Intent in the Early Years Framework can be represented as a set of concentric circles that map precisely onto Levels 2-5 of the original; the concepts described in each segment are the came, though the language is changed somewhat to reflect the different context.

The four elements that apply to each of the main descriptors are captured in an expanded version of this figure.



The Sounds of Intent in the Early Years Framework of Musical Development with Detailed Elements

Villa Real School EYFS KS1 to KS4

Music Scheme of Work based on Sounds of Intent

From KS1 to KS3, pupils access music who are on Pathway 3. Pupils on Pathway 2 access music though sensory therapeutic approaches following the Interactive, proactive and Reactive approaches. Across the curriculum pupils will develop and explore a wide range of skills such us: Pulse and rhythm; duration; tempo; dynamics; timbre; performance skills; active listening & appraising music; song structure; composition; improvisation; recording & working together.

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Festivals &	Halloween, Bonfire Night, Harvest,	Valentine's Day, Chinese New	Father's Day, Wesak
celebrations	Diwali (Hinduism), Hannukah	Year, Holi festival of colours	(Buddhism), Eid (Islam)
	festival of light (Judaism),	(Hinduism), Mother's Day,	
	Christmas	Easter	
	Festivals and Friendship	Woodland and traditional	Out an about, music
		tales	around the world
2024-2025	Exploring sounds		
	Dynamics (Loud/Quiet)	Exploring duration.	Exploring pulse.
	Active listening	Duration (Long/short)	Pulse (Fast/Slow)
	Genre: Folk & Classical	Genre: Folk music & Jazz	Genre: Reggae & Jazz
	Our selves and others	Living things	Holidays
2025-2026	Exploring rhythm	Exploring pitch	Exploring duration.
	Tempo (Lento vs Presto)	Dynamics (Loud/Quiet)	Duration (Long/short)
	Performance	Improvisation	
			Genre: Rock & Gospel
	Genre: Classical & Pop	Genre: Pop & Gospel	
	Festivals and celebrations	Colour and light	Around the world
2026-2027	Pitch (High/Low)	Structure	Duration (Long/short)
		Tempo (Fast/Slow)	Composition
	Genre: Bollywood & Gospel		•••••
		Genre: Indian & Blues	Genre: Blues & Samba
	Colour and light	Fairy tails	Travelling around
2027-2028	Form and structure	Duration (Long/short)	Tempo (Fast/Slow)
_	Dynamics (Loud/Quiet)		Performance
		Genre: Indie & Western	
	Genre: Samba & Indie		Genre: Western & Africar

Key Stage 1- Rolling Programme of Topics

By the end of KS1 pupils have explored with their voices, played tuned and untuned instruments, listened to a high quality live and recorded music, and experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using their inter-related dimensions of music. Adapted from National Curriculum March 21.

Musical genres to contrast each term and enrich musical experience. To extend knowledge, include musical of important festivities and celebrations related to that term.

Key Stage 2 - Rolling Programme of Topics

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Festivals &	Halloween, Bonfire Night, Harvest,	Valentine's Day, Chinese New	Father's Day, Wesak
celebrations	Diwali (Hinduism), Hannukah	Year, Holi festival of colours	(Buddhism), Eid (Islam)
	festival of light (Judaism),	(Hinduism), Mother's Day,	
	Christmas	Easter	
	Festivals	Woodland adventures	At the seaside
	Dynamics (Loud/Quiet)	Duration (Long/short)	Tempo (Fast/Slow)
2024-2025	Performance		Improvisation
	Genre: Blues & Pop	Genre: Asian & Folk (UK)	Genre: African & Cuba
	Friendship	Water Blues	Broadway
2025-2026	Dynamics (Loud/Quiet) Improvisation	Dynamics (Loud/Quiet)	Tempo (Fast/Slow)
	Genre: Indie & Jazz	Genre: Disco & Blues	Genre: Reggae & Gospel
	The big screen (films)	Musicals	The journey
2026-2027	Dynamic (high/low) Structure	Tempo (Fast/Slow) Improvisation	Tempo (Fast/Slow) Composition
	Genre: Classical & Rock	Genre: Bollywood & Western	Genre: Calypso & Pop
	Rainbow Rag	Festivals	Musicals
	Pitch (High/low)	Form and structure	Duration (Long/short)
2027-2028	Structure (beginning/end)	Performance	Mood (happy/sad/angry, etc)
	Genre: Jazz & Folk	Genre: Asian & Bollywood	
			Genre: Indie & Funk

By the end of KS2 pupils have played and perform solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and instruments; improvise and compose music for a range of purposes; listen and begin to recall sounds, begin to understand musical notations; appreciate and understand a high quality live and recorded music from different traditions, composers and musicians and become familiar with history of music. Adapted from National Curriculum March 21.

Musical genres to contrast each term and enrich musical experience. To extend knowledge, include musical of important festivities and celebrations related to that term.

Key Stage 3- Rolling Programme of Topics

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Festivals &	Halloween, Bonfire Night, Harvest,	Valentine's Day, Chinese New	Father's Day, Wesak
celebrations	Diwali (Hinduism), Hannukah	Year, Holi festival of colours	(Buddhism), Eid (Islam)
	festival of light (Judaism),	(Hinduism), Mother's Day,	
	Christmas	Easter	
	Friendship	Urban rap	Out and about
		Duration (Long/Short)	Tempo (Fast/Slow)
	Pitch (high/low)	Timbre (Rough/Smooth)	Structure
2024-2025	Mood (happy/Sad/Angry)		(Beginning/End)
		Genre: Rap & Pop	
	Genre: Blues & Rock		Genre: African & Calypso
	The big screen (films)	Woodland	Farm Reggae
	Pitch (high/low)	Duration (Long/short)	Tempo (Fast/Slow)
2025-2026	Mood (happy, sad, angry, etc)	Timbre (rough/smooth)	Structure
			(Beginning/end)
	Genre: Jazz & Pop	Genre: Folk & Disco	
			Genre: Reggae & Country
	Festivals and celebrations	Spring serenade	Summer Jig
	Tempo (Fast/Slow)	Tempo	Form and structure
2026-2027	Mood (happy, sad, angry, etc)	Pitch (high/low)	Composition
	Genre: Indie & Gospel	Genre: Classical & Jazz	Genre: Folk & African
	Musicals	Animal magic: exploring	Computer Chip Rock
		descriptive sounds	
	Tempo (Fast/Slow)		Rhythm
2027-2028	Form and structure	Timbre	Dynamic
		Pulse	
		Improvisation	Genre: Rock & Electronic
	Genre: Classical & Western		
		Genre: Folk & Blues	

By the end of KS3 pupils have played and perform solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and instruments with increasing confidence; improvise and compose music for a range of purposes, exploring musical structures, styles genres and traditions; listen and begin to recall sounds; appreciate and understand a high quality live and recorded music from different traditions, composers and musicians and become familiar with history of music. Adapted from National Curriculum March 21.

Musical genres to contrast each term and enrich musical experience. To extend knowledge, include musical of important festivities and celebrations related to that term.

KS4 & KS5

From Ks4 and KS5 pupils will have the choice to take part in music and musical performances sessions.

If pupils are on Pathway 2 on Ks4, their access to music would be though therapeutic and exploratory processes. Pathway 3 pupils on KS4 can choose to op in to the following units

- Using the Internet as a Medium for Music. Entry Level 3
- Exploring Music. Entry Level 1
- Exploring Music. Entry Level 2
- Exploring Performance. Entry Level 1

Pathway 4 is for all pupils in KS5 who will complete their choices booklet in order to access music and performance if that is an area, they are interested in. This can be for leisure proposes as well as college or employment