

This Collective Worship Playlist has been designed to expose pupils to a wide variety of musical genres across the school year. Each week introduces a different style of music, from classical and opera to pop, jazz, world music, gospel, country, and beyond.

This approach directly supports the National Curriculum for Music aims for primary schools, helping pupils to:

- Listen attentively and respond to high-quality live and recorded music.
- Experience a wide range of genres, traditions, and historical periods, broadening their cultural awareness and appreciation of diversity.
- Develop critical engagement by recognising distinctive features of different styles, instruments, and traditions.
- Foster a lifelong love of music, encouraging curiosity and respect for music from many cultures and times.

By embedding this playlist into Collective Worship and classroom practice, pupils are given meaningful opportunities to enjoy, reflect on, and discuss music, nurturing both their musical understanding and their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

Week 1 – Boy Bands

chosen to showcase the enduring appeal of boy bands, highlighting their polished harmonies, catchy pop hooks, and the cultural phenomenon of groups that capture youth audiences across decades.

- One Direction – What Makes You Beautiful (2011)
- BTS – Dynamite (2020)
- Jonas Brothers – Sucker (2019)

Week 2 – Ska

selected for its upbeat rhythms and brass-driven sound, tracing its roots from Jamaica to the UK while illustrating how music can address social themes in an energetic style.

- The Dualers – Don't Go (2019)
- Reel Big Fish – Take On Me (1998)
- The Skatalites – Phoenix City (Classic instrumental)

Week 3 – Pop Music

included to represent mainstream appeal, catchy songwriting, and the way pop music often reflects the cultural mood of its time.

- Taylor Swift – Shake It Off (2014)
- Katy Perry – Roar (2013)
- Dua Lipa – Levitating (2020, clean edit)

Week 4 – Classical / Baroque

chosen to introduce pupils to the timeless beauty of orchestral traditions, emphasising melody, harmony, and the historical significance of composers whose works remain relevant today.

- Beethoven – Ode to Joy
- Vivaldi – Four Seasons (Spring)
- Mozart – Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Week 5 – R'n'B

selected for its soulful vocals and expressive style, showing how rhythm and blues continues to influence contemporary popular music.

- Alicia Keys – Girl on Fire (2012)
- John Legend – All of Me (2013)
- Beyoncé – Halo (2008)

Week 6 – Legendary Women of Music

included to celebrate iconic female artists who have shaped music history with their powerful voices, creativity, and influence.

- Adele – Easy on Me (2021)
- Lady Gaga – Born This Way (2011)
- Beyoncé – Halo (2008)

Week 7 – Brit-Pop

chosen to reflect a uniquely British musical movement of the 1990s, blending catchy guitar-driven songs with cultural identity and pride.

- Oasis – Wonderwall (1995)
- Blur – Song 2 (1997)
- The Cranberries – Linger (1993)

Week 8 – Blues

selected for its emotional storytelling, expressive vocals, and foundational role in shaping rock, jazz, and popular music.

- Eric Clapton – Layla (1992)
- Norah Jones – Don't Know Why (2002)
- John Mayer – Gravity (2006)

Week 9 – Punk / Pop Punk

included to showcase high-energy music with rebellious themes, illustrating how punk evolved into a more accessible pop-punk sound for younger audiences.

- Paramore – Still Into You (2013)
- Jimmy Eat World – The Middle (2001)
- Avril Lavigne – Head Above Water (2019)

Week 10 – Rock 'n' Roll

chosen for its role in the birth of modern popular music, driven by rhythm, energy, and unforgettable performances.

- Elvis Presley – Hound Dog (1956)
- Buddy Holly – Peggy Sue (1957)

- The Beatles – Twist and Shout (1963)

Week 11 – Northern Soul

included to highlight the UK dance movement of the 1960s and 70s, with rare soul tracks that became club favourites.

- Frankie Valli – The Night (1972)
- Dobie Gray – Out on the Floor (1965)
- Gloria Jones – Tainted Love (1964)

Week 12 – Dance

selected for its driving beats and uplifting production, showing how electronic music brings people together on the dance floor.

- Calvin Harris – By Your Side (2021, radio edit)
- David Guetta ft. Sia – Titanium (2011)
- Avicii – Wake Me Up (2013)

Week 13 – Metal

chosen to introduce pupils to the powerful sound of heavy guitars and dramatic vocals, representing intensity and expression in rock.

- Imagine Dragons – Believer (2017)
- Linkin Park – Numb (2003)
- Fall Out Boy – My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark (2013)

Week 14 – Show Tunes

included to celebrate music from stage and screen, highlighting storytelling through powerful songs that connect with audiences of all ages.

- Moana – How far I'll go (2013)
- The Greatest Showman – This Is Me (2017)
- Circle of Life – Lion King (1994)

Week 15 – Gospel

selected for its uplifting messages, call-and-response style, and deep connection to community and spirituality.

- Kirk Franklin – Love Theory (2019)
- Whitney Houston – Jesus Loves Me (1992)
- Aretha Franklin – Amazing Grace (1972)

Week 16 – Rock

chosen to represent modern rock's diversity, from anthemic stadium hits to introspective songwriting.

- Dekota – Stereophonics (2005)
- Imagine Dragons – Radioactive (2012)
- Foo Fighters – Times Like These (2002)

Week 17 – Girl Power!

included to highlight empowering anthems by female artists, encouraging confidence, resilience, and positivity.

- Rachel Platten – Fight Song (2014)
- Kelly Clarkson – Stronger (2011)
- Meghan Trainor – All About That Bass (2014)

Week 18 – Disco

chosen for its infectious rhythms and celebratory feel, representing a genre that defined dance culture in the 1970s and beyond.

- ABBA – Dancing Queen (1976)
- Earth, Wind & Fire – September (1978)
- Gloria Gaynor – I Will Survive (1978)

Week 19 – Rap / Hip-Hop

selected for its rhythmic vocal delivery, storytelling, and cultural impact, encouraging pupils to see music as a tool for self-expression.

- Can I kick it? – A Tribe Called Quest (1990)
- Black Eyed Peas – Where Is The Love? (2003)
- K'naan – Wavin' Flag (2010)

Week 20 – Country

included to showcase storytelling through music, blending acoustic instruments with heartfelt lyrics about everyday life.

- Dasha – Austin (Boots Stop Workin') (2023)
- Chris Stapleton – White Horse (2023)
- Nate Smith – World on Fire (2023)

Week 21 – K-Pop

chosen to reflect South Korea's global musical influence, combining polished production, choreography, and catchy hooks.

- BTS – Butter (2021)
- BLACKPINK – Ice Cream (2020)
- TWICE – The Feels (2021)

Week 22 – Emo

selected to highlight emotional songwriting and expressive performance, representing an important youth-driven movement in the 2000s and beyond.

- Paramore – The Only Exception (2010)
- My Chemical Romance – Welcome to the Black Parade (2006)
- Fall Out Boy – Sugar We're Goin Down (clean edit, 2005)

Week 23 – Legendary Bands

included to celebrate bands whose influence has spanned decades, shaping the sound and direction of modern music.

- The Beatles – Hey Jude (1968)
- Queen – Don't Stop Me Now (1979)
- U2 – With or Without You (1987)

Week 24 – Soul

chosen for its heartfelt vocal performances and emotional depth, representing love, struggle, and hope.

- Alicia Keys – If I Ain't Got You (2004)
- John Legend – Ordinary People (2004)
- Sam Cooke – A Change is Gonna Come (1964)

Week 25 – House

included to highlight electronic dance music's evolution, with hypnotic beats and uplifting energy.

- Sigala – Sweet Lovin' (2015)
- Calvin Harris – Summer (2014)
- Benediction – Hot Natured (2013)

Week 26 – Jazz

selected for its improvisation, swing rhythms, and rich history, influencing many other genres.

- Jamie Cullum – Everlasting Love (2004)
- Michael Bublé – Feeling Good (2005)
- Nina Simone – My Baby Just Cares for Me (1959)

Week 27 – Opera

chosen to introduce pupils to the grandeur of operatic singing and classical drama.

- Andrea Bocelli – Time to Say Goodbye (1996)
- Katherine Jenkins – Pie Jesu (2008)
- Luciano Pavarotti – Nessun Dorma (1994)

Week 28 – Funk

included for its irresistible grooves and rhythmic drive, showing how funk shaped disco, hip-hop, and modern pop.

- Bruno Mars – Uptown Funk (2014)
- Mark Ronson – Feel Right (2015, clean)
- Jamiroquai – Virtual Insanity (1996)

Week 29 – Power Ballads

chosen for their emotional intensity and soaring melodies, illustrating how songs can connect deeply with listeners.

- Adele – Hello (2015)
- Kelly Clarkson – Because of You (2005)
- Sia – Chandelier (2014)

Week 30 – Reggae

selected to showcase the laid-back rhythms and uplifting messages of Jamaica's most influential musical export.

- Bob Marley – Three Little Birds (1980)
- Toots & The Maytals – Pressure Drop (1969)
- UB40 – Kingston Town (1989)

Week 31 – Electronic

included to highlight the creativity of electronic producers and the evolution of digital soundscapes.

- Daft Punk – One More Time (2000)
- Avicii – Levels (2011)
- Calvin Harris – Feel So Close (2011)

Week 32 – Legendary Men of Music

chosen to celebrate male artists whose impact and creativity helped define modern music.

- Elton John – I'm Still Standing (1983)
- Stevie Wonder – Superstition (1972)
- David Bowie – Heroes (1977)

Week 33 – Ambient / Instrumental

selected for its calming, atmospheric qualities, encouraging reflection and mindfulness.

- Enya – Only Time (2000)
- Ludovico Einaudi – Nuvole Bianche (2004)
- Sigur Rós – Hoppípolla (2005)

Week 34 – Afrobeats

included to celebrate a diverse and vibrant genre of contemporary West African pop

- Tems – Wickedest (2024)
- Burna Boy – Last Last (2022)
- Calm down – Rema (2022)

Week 35 – Techno

chosen to represent the driving, futuristic sounds of electronic dance music culture.

- The Chemical Brothers – Go (2015)
- Calvin Harris – I'm Not Alone (2009)
- Martin Garrix – Animals (2013)

Week 36 – Grunge

selected to highlight the raw, guitar-driven sound of the 1990s that gave voice to a generation.

- Nirvana – Smells Like Teen Spirit (1991, school-safe version)
- Pearl Jam – Alive (1991)
- Soundgarden – Black Hole Sun (1994)

Week 37 – One-Hit Wonders

included to show how even single successful songs can leave a lasting cultural impact.

- Gotye – Somebody That I Used to Know (2011)
- PSY – Gangnam Style (2012)
- OMI – Cheerleader (2014)

Week 38 – Psychedelic

included for its experimental sounds and mind-expanding style, reflecting the counterculture of the 1960s and its modern revivals.

- Tame Impala – The Less I Know The Better (2015)
- MGMT – Kids (2007)
- The Flaming Lips – Do You Realize?? (2002)