Progression of skills in Music (EYFS to Year 6)

Aspect	EYFS	KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
Singing	Sings familiar songs; matches pitch in a group.	Sings simple melodies in tune with expression.	Sings rounds and part songs with control.	Sings confidently with expression, accurate pitch and control of dynamics.
Playing Instruments	Explores sounds using body, classroom instruments.	Plays simple patterns and rhythms on tuned/untuned instruments.	Performs with control and accuracy; follows simple notation.	Performs as part of ensemble or solo with fluency and accuracy.
Listening & Appraising	Listens and responds to music with movement or drawing.	Identifies simple musical elements (loud/soft, fast/slow).	Recognises instruments, styles, structure, and character in music.	Analyses and compares music using correct vocabulary.
Composing & Improvising	Creates simple rhythms with sounds and voices.	Combines sounds and musical ideas with purpose.	Improvises rhythms/melodies; uses notation to record ideas.	Composes using structure, texture, and harmony; reads/writes staff notation.
Notation	Graphical representation (marks, lines, pictures).	Understands symbols for sounds and silence (graphic notation).	Begins reading basic notation (e.g., crotchets, quavers).	Reads and writes full staff notation confidently.