

RATIONALE: MUSIC

This rationale complements and extends the rationale for The Arts learning area. Music is uniquely an aural art form. The essential nature of music is abstract. Music encompasses existing sounds that are selected and shaped, new sounds created by composers and performers, and the placement of sounds in time and space. Composers, performers and listeners perceive and define these sounds as music. Music exists distinctively in every culture and is a basic expression of human experience. Students' active participation in music fosters understanding of other times, places, cultures and contexts. Through continuous and sequential music learning, students listen to, compose and perform with increasing depth and complexity. Through performing, composing and listening with intent to music, students have access to knowledge, skills and understanding which can be gained in no other way. Learning in Music is aurally based and can be understood without any recourse to notation. Learning to read and write music in traditional and graphic forms enables students to access a wide range of music as independent learners. Music has the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, exciting the imagination and encouraging students to reach their creative and expressive potential. Skills and techniques developed through participation in music learning allow students to manipulate, express and share sound as listeners, composers and performers. Music learning has a significant impact on the cognitive, affective, motor, social and personal competencies of students. As independent learners, students integrate listening, performing and composing activities. These activities, developed sequentially, enhance their capacity to perceive and understand music. As students' progress through studying Music, they learn to value and appreciate the power of music to transform the heart, soul, mind and spirit of the individual. In this way students develop an aesthetic appreciation and enjoyment of music.

Music: Years 7 and 8 Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 8, students identify and analyse how the elements of music are used in different styles and apply this knowledge in their performances and compositions. They evaluate musical choices they and others from different cultures, times and places make to communicate meaning as performers and composers.

Students manipulate the elements of music and stylistic conventions to compose music. They interpret, rehearse and perform songs and instrumental pieces in unison and in parts, demonstrating technical and expressive skills. They use aural skills, music terminology and symbols to recognise, memorise and notate features, such as melodic patterns in music they perform and compose.

AIMS

In addition to the overarching aims of the Australian Curriculum: The Arts, Music knowledge, understanding and skills ensure that, individually and collaboratively, students develop:

- the confidence to be creative, innovative, thoughtful, skillful and informed musicians
- skills to compose, perform, improvise, respond and listen with intent and purpose
- aesthetic knowledge and respect for music and music practices across global communities, cultures and musical traditions
- an understanding of music as an aural art form as they acquire skills to become independent music learners.

Organisation and Content Structure

In the Australian Curriculum, the Arts is a learning area that draws together related but distinct art forms. While these art forms have close relationships and are often used in interrelated ways, each involves different approaches to arts practices and critical and creative thinking that reflect distinct bodies of knowledge, understanding and skills. The curriculum examines past, current and emerging arts practices in each art form across a range of cultures and places.

The Australian Curriculum: The Arts Foundation to Year 10 enables exploration of the dynamic relationships between Arts subjects. This can involve students making and responding to artworks in traditional, contemporary and emerging forms, using materials, techniques and technologies from one Arts subject to support learning in another. In this twenty-first century Arts curriculum, students explore innovative and hybrid art forms which extend and challenge art making and combine practices of two or more art forms.

Within all Arts subjects, design facilitates the creative and practical realisation of ideas. Design thinking is a fundamental strategy in the experimentation, refinement and resolution of an artwork and takes into account logical, critical and aesthetic considerations. Many different words describe design within the Arts such as choreographing, narrating, devising, constructing, composing and sculpting. Design connects the different art forms so that they inform each other, providing possibilities for students to create innovative and hybrid forms of art.

Strands - Content descriptions in each Arts subject reflect the interrelated strands of *Making* and *Responding*.

- *Making* includes learning about and using knowledge, skills, techniques, processes, materials and technologies to explore arts practices and make artworks that communicate ideas and intentions.
- *Responding* includes exploring, responding to, analysing and interpreting artworks.

Relationship between the strands: *Making* and *Responding* are intrinsically connected. Together they provide students with knowledge, understanding and skills as artists, performers and audience and develop students' skills in critical and creative thinking. As students make artworks they actively respond to their developing artwork and the artworks of others; as students respond to artworks they draw on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired through their experiences in making artworks.

Viewpoints - In both making and responding to artworks, students consider a range of viewpoints or perspectives through which artworks can be explored and interpreted. These include the contexts in which the artworks are made by artists and experienced by audiences. The world can be interpreted through different contexts, including social, cultural and historical contexts. Based on this curriculum, key questions are provided as a framework for developing students' knowledge, understanding and inquiry skills.

In **Music**, students listen to, compose and perform music from a diverse range of styles, traditions and contexts. They create, shape and share sounds in time and space and critically analyse music. Music practice is aurally based and focuses on acquiring and using knowledge, understanding and skills about music and musicians.

Knowledge and skills of Music

In Music, students' exploration and understanding of the elements of music, musical conventions, styles and forms expands with their continued active engagement with music.

In listening to, performing and composing music from a broad range of styles, practices, traditions and contexts, students learn to recognise their subjective preferences and consider diverse perspectives of music. This, in turn, informs the way in which they interpret music as performers and how they respond to the music they listen to. Additionally students develop their own musical voice as composers and their own style as musicians.

The Arts across Foundation to Year 10: Years 7–10

As students move into adolescence, they undergo a range of important physical, cognitive, emotional and social changes. Students often begin to question established conventions, practices and values. Their interests extend well beyond their own communities and they begin to develop concerns about wider issues. Students in this age range increasingly look for and value learning that is perceived to be relevant, is consistent with personal goals, and/or leads to important outcomes. Increasingly they are able to work with more abstract concepts and consider increasingly complex ideas. They are keen to explore the nature of evidence and the contestability of ideas, debating alternative answers and interpretations.

In these years, learning in the Arts enables students to explore and question their own immediate experience and their understanding of the wider world. Learning through and about the Arts enables students to build on their own experiences and dispositions. Students explore and engage with artworks made by others. They make their own artworks drawing on their developing knowledge, understanding and skills.

Students' understanding of sustainability is progressively developed. They explore how the Arts are used to communicate about sustainability and also learn about sustainability of practices in the Arts.

Students learn that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have converted oral records to other technologies. As they explore forms, students learn that over time there has been development of different traditional and contemporary styles. Students explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art forms that are publicly available for broader participation in their community. Students may also extend their cultural expression with appropriate community consultation and endorsement. They identify and explore the social relationships that have developed between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other cultures in Australia, reflected in developments of forms and styles in the Arts.

Through the Australian Curriculum: The Arts, students in Years 7 to 10 pursue broad questions such as: What meaning is intended in an artwork? What does the audience understand from this artwork? What is the cultural context of the artwork and of the audience engaging with it? What key beliefs and values are reflected in artworks and how did artists influence societies of their time? How do audiences perceive and understand artworks? What does the advancement of technology mean to the presentation of, and audience engagement with, different artworks? This curriculum also provides opportunities to engage students through contexts that are meaningful and relevant to them and through exploration of past and present debates.

Content descriptions in each Arts subject focus on similar concepts and skills that, across the bands, present a developmental sequence of knowledge, understanding and skills. The focus of each content description in Foundation to Year 6 expands into more specific content descriptions for Years 7 to 10 as presented in the table below. For transition purposes from primary to secondary in Years 7 – 8 and consistency state-wide, generalist primary teachers at Year 7 could focus on the four initial similar concepts and skills eg, the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 6th Content Descriptions, with the deeper and expanded concepts being emphasised in year 8, eg, the 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 7th Content Descriptions. E.g. The emphasis in Year 7 could then be on: 8.1, 8.3, 8.5 and 8.6, and in Year 8: 8.2, 8.4, 8.5 and 8.7.

| Content description | Foundation–Yr 6 | Content description | Yrs 7– 10 |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| 1 st | Exploring ideas and improvising with ways to represent ideas | 1 st | Exploring ideas and improvising with ways to represent ideas |
| | | 2 nd | Manipulating and applying the elements/concepts with intent |
| 2 nd | Developing understanding of practices | 3 rd | Developing and refining understanding of skills and techniques |
| | | 4 th | Structuring and organising ideas into form |
| 3 rd | Sharing artworks through performance, presentation or display | 5 th | Sharing artworks through performance, presentation or display |
| 4 th | Responding to and interpreting artworks | 6 th | Analysing and reflecting upon intentions |
| | | 7 th | Responding to and interpreting artworks |

Years 7–8 Level Description: Music

In Years 7 and 8, learning in Music builds on the experience of the previous band. It involves students making and responding to music independently, and with their classmates, teachers and communities. They explore music as an art form through listening, composing and performing. Students build on their aural skills by identifying and manipulating rhythm, pitch, dynamics and expression, form and structure, timbre and texture in their listening, composing and performing. They aurally identify layers within a texture. They sing and play independent parts against contrasting parts. They recognise rhythmic, melodic and harmonic patterns and beat groupings. They understand their role within an ensemble and control tone and volume. They perform with expression and technical control. They identify a variety of audiences for which music is made. As they experience music, students draw on music from a range of cultures, times and locations. They explore the music and influences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and those of the Asia region. Students learn that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have converted oral records to other technologies. As they explore form in music, students learn that over time there has been further development of techniques used in traditional and contemporary styles of music. As they make and respond to music, students explore meaning and interpretation, forms, and elements including rhythm, pitch, dynamics and expression, form and structure, timbre and texture. They consider social, cultural and historical contexts of music. They evaluate the expressive techniques used in music they listen to and experience in performance. Students maintain safety, correct posture and technique in using instruments and technologies. Their understanding of the roles of artists and audiences builds upon previous bands as students engage with more diverse music.

Years 7–8: Examples of knowledge and skills in Music

Music is learned through developing skills and knowledge associated with the elements of music. Musical ideas are conceived, organised and shaped by aspects and combinations of rhythm, pitch, dynamics and expression, form and structure, timbre and texture. When making and responding, students' musical skills are best developed through activities which integrate the techniques and processes of music: listening, composing and performing.

Examples of knowledge and skills in Music

The following information serves to articulate the main parts of the broader conceptual areas of Knowledge and Skills. These are not an exclusive, exhaustive list, but an indication of the breadth of study within music. In this band students are introduced to the ways that ideas and intentions are communicated in and through music. They develop knowledge, understanding and skills through music practices focusing on:

Elements of music

Rhythm - time signature, semiquaver subdivisions, dotted notes, minim and semibreve rests, quaver rest, dotted crotchet rest

- rhythmic devices such as anacrusis, syncopation, ties and pause

Pitch - melodic sequences based upon pentatonic, major and minor scales; key and key signatures; major and minor chords and primary triads (I, IV, V) in simple chord progressions; reading treble and bass clefs and ledger lines

Dynamics and expression - dynamic gradations including *mp* and *mf*; articulations relevant to style, for example, glissando, slide, slap, melismatic phrasing

Form and structure - repetition and contrast; call and response; digital sequences; theme and variation; 12 bar blues; popular song structures including verse, chorus, bridge, middle 8, intro and outro

Timbre - recognising instrumental types and groups; voice types; acoustic and electronic sound

Texture - identifying layers of sound and their role (accompaniment and melody); unison, homophonic (melody with chords), polyphonic (two or more independent layers played simultaneously)

Skills (including aural skills)

- recognising rhythmic patterns and beat groupings
- discriminating between pitches, recognising intervals and familiar chord progressions
- identifying and notating metre and rhythmic groupings
- aurally identifying layers within a texture
- imitating simple melodies and rhythms using voice and instruments
- performing with expression and technical control, correct posture and safety
- understanding their role within an ensemble, balancing and controlling tone and volume
- using technology as a tool for music learning and to record their music
- holding and playing instruments and using their voices safely and correctly

Years 7–8: Considering viewpoints in Music

In both *Making* and *Responding*, students learn that meanings can be generated from different viewpoints and that these shift according to different world encounters. As students make, investigate or critique artworks as artists and audiences, they may ask and answer questions to interrogate the artists' meanings and the audiences' interpretations. Meanings and interpretations are informed by contexts of societies, cultures and histories, and an understanding of visual arts practices. These questions provide the basis for making informed critical judgments about their own art and design works and other artworks they see, hear and interact with as audiences.

Examples of viewpoints and questions within the Music Content Elaborations Yrs 7–8

Considering viewpoints:

- *Forms and elements*: For example – How have the elements of music and instruments been used in this piece? What composition devices were used in your piece?
- *Meanings and interpretations*: For example – Why does the same piece sound different when different musicians play it?
- *Societies, cultures and histories*: For example – What is the social context of this piece and for whom would it be performed? What is the cultural context of this piece and what does it signify? What instruments and other features of the music indicate it is from a particular time and place?
- *Evaluations*: For example - How effectively did the musicians use expressive techniques in their performance? How effectively are the expressive techniques indicated in the notation of the composition? What are the strengths of this performance or composition?

Years 7–8 Content Descriptions: Music

- 8.1 Experiment with texture and timbre in sound sources using aural skills
- 8.2 Develop musical ideas, such as mood, by improvising, combining and manipulating the elements of music
- 8.3 Practise and rehearse a variety of music, including Australian music, to develop technical and expressive skills
- 8.4 Structure compositions by combining and manipulating the elements of music using notation
- 8.5 Perform and present a range of music, using techniques and expression appropriate to style
- 8.6 Analyse composers' use of the elements of music and stylistic features when listening to and interpreting music
- 8.7 Identify and connect specific features and purposes of music from different eras to explore viewpoints and enrich their music-making, starting with Australian music, including music of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

NB: It is advised that the 'Learning in Music' two page introduction (Subject, structure) is used along with this 'explorer' paper. Download it from the Australian Curriculum website.

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