

## Key Stage 3

### The place of folk music in the secondary music curriculum

*This document gives an indication of how folk and traditional music can help teachers enhance and deliver aspects of the National Curriculum for Music in England at Key Stage 3, and suggests a range of supporting resources created by folk artist-educators.*

### National Curriculum in England: Key Stage 3 Music

Key Stage 3 Music Subject Content	Links to folk music
Play and perform confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using their voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy and expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop fluency, musicality and accuracy by learning and performing folk tunes and songs by ear</li> <li>• Perform folk tunes and songs to an audience, or play for dancing eg. ceilidh</li> <li>• Folk repertoire provides simple, easily accessible pieces that lend themselves well to ensemble performances and arrangements</li> <li>• Solo performance of folk music and song gives space for personal interpretation, expression and development of the piece</li> <li>• Explore folk-specific techniques and style</li> </ul>
Improvise and compose; and extend and develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres and traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop skills in learning and playing by ear to help with instinctive music-making and improvisation</li> <li>• Rework and create new versions of folk songs and tunes</li> <li>• Write new compositions using folk music structures and conventions as a starting point</li> <li>• Embellish or extend folk tunes</li> </ul>
Use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Folk tunes are often written down in manuscript books in their basic form. Folk musicians add stylistic elements and interpret the tunes to their own taste.</li> </ul>

<p>Identify and use the inter-related dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn a variety of folk tunes and songs by ear</li> <li>• Explore a variety of folk rhythms eg jigs, reels, 3/2 hornpipes, waltzes. Learn the dances that the tunes accompany.</li> <li>• Learn common scales, modes and ornamentation used in folk music</li> <li>• Learn folk-specific techniques</li> <li>• Develop personal interpretation and style in folk music</li> <li>• Compare the sounds of traditional music and instruments from around the world</li> </ul>
<p>Listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to, review and evaluate contemporary and archival recordings of folk songs and tunes</li> <li>• Listen to, evaluate and compare different versions of the same folk song or tune, as all traditional musicians interpret pieces differently</li> <li>• Listen to compositions by contemporary folk artists</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of the aural tradition. Often the composers of folk tunes and songs are unknown and the music has survived because it was valued, played and passed on by generations of people. Each folk tune or song has been crafted by many musicians as they move between people and places.</li> </ul>
<p>Develop a deepening understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen, and its history</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about cultural traditions local to the school</li> <li>• Learn about oral transmission of folk music and intangible cultural heritage</li> <li>• Learn about folk sessions, ceilidhs, barn dances and festivals</li> <li>• Learn about playing for dancing and the connections between folk music and dance</li> <li>• Learn about cultural, social and historical contexts of folk music eg. social commentary, personal and collective histories</li> <li>• Understand the stories behind and the journeys of folk tunes and songs, and how they change through time</li> </ul>

## Learning Resources

EFDSS' award-winning Resource Bank provides freely downloadable materials for using English traditional folk song, music, dance, drama and other arts in your teaching and learning. The following resources support aspects of the secondary music curriculum:

- ***Folk Music: A resource for creative music-making*** by Rob Harbron: [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/folk-music-a-resource-for-creative-music-making-key-stage-3-and-4](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/folk-music-a-resource-for-creative-music-making-key-stage-3-and-4)
- ***Working By Ear: Ideas and resources for learning and teaching music by ear*** by Rob Harbron and Miranda Rutter: [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/working-by-ear-by-rob-harbron-and-miranda-rutter](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/working-by-ear-by-rob-harbron-and-miranda-rutter)
- ***Six Folk Arrangements for Youth Ensembles*** by Laurel Swift: [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/six-folk-arrangements-for-youth-ensembles](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/six-folk-arrangements-for-youth-ensembles)
- ***Using Folk Song in Secondary Schools*** by Hazel Askew: [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/using-folk-music-in-secondary-schools](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/using-folk-music-in-secondary-schools)
- ***Folk and Traditional Music: to accompany a performance by the National Youth Folk Ensemble and Leveret*** compiled by Sarah Jones: [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/folk-and-traditional-music-to-accompany-a-performance-by-the-national-youth-folk-ensemble-and-leveret](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/folk-and-traditional-music-to-accompany-a-performance-by-the-national-youth-folk-ensemble-and-leveret)
- ***Introduction to playing folk music: working with intermediate and advanced players new to folk music*** by Rob Harbron : [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/introduction-to-playing-folk-music](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/introduction-to-playing-folk-music)

Visit [www.efdss.org/resourcebank](http://www.efdss.org/resourcebank) to browse more resources