

THEST. MARY'S Knowledge Organiser: SPRING 1

Vocabulary	Meaning
Reggae	A popular style of music from Jamaica
Ensemble	A group of musicians who perform together
Tone (vocal)	How your voice sounds when you sing
Bassline	The lowest pitched part of the music, written using bass clef
Texture	The combination of layers happening in the music
Riff	A short pattern or melody that repeats over and over in music
One-drop	A drumming pattern that is a defining feature of reggae music
Kick drum	The large bass drum that sits sideways on the floor, that you kick using a pedal
Snare drum	A drum that has thin wired stretched across which create a sharper sound by cutting vibration
Riddim	The patois for the word 'rhythm' – meaning the instrumental parts of a tune, not exactly the same a what rhythm means traditionally
Patois	Jamaican language based on English
Chord	Several notes played at the same time to create harmony
Harmony	The sound of more than one note played at the same time
Off-beat	Notes that sound in between the beats - syncopation

Key knowledge - the origins of reggae music







Reggae music comes from Jamaica, an island in the Caribbean. It grew out of styles like ska, and traces its roots back to the Blues genre developed by African Americans in the late 19th century, after the Emancipation Act of 1863. Famous musicians include Bunny Wailer and Bob Marley who was a Rastafarian, believing in peace, spirituality and solidarity among Black peoples.

Key knowledge - Parts of a drum kit



The most common setup for a drum kit uses drums and cymbals of different sizes and materials to create a range of percussive. 'Kit' is used in pop and rock bands, blues influenced music and sometimes in classical orchestras.

Key knowledge - Bass clef



The bass clef is used to notate pitches on the lower register lower sounding notes. This clef is used for bass lines, lower pitched instruments like cello and tuba and the left hand for piano. The lines and spaces are different pitches to those in treble clef