



# Reading & Understanding Music

KS2 objective: use and understand staff and other musical notations

Not all musicians learn to read music, many can play 'by ear', but for playing in bands and orchestras, reading music can be important.

- Music symbols are called 'notes' and they sit on a set of five lines called a 'stave'.
- A clef is a symbol placed on the left hand side of each stave, which shows the pitch of the music. The most well-known clefs are treble clef ( $\text{♩}$ ) and bass clef ( $\text{♭}$ ).
- The C major scale is the most common scale and the notes in order are C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C.
- In the C major scale, the notes that sit on the lines are called E, G, B, D, F. These can be remembered using a mnemonic 'Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit'.
- In the C major scale, the notes that sit in the spaces are called F, A, C, E, which can be remembered as they spell FACE.
- An octave is a space of eight steps between musical notes.
- 'Pitch' means how high or low a note is.
- 'Dynamics' means how loud or quiet a note is.
- 'Tempo' means the speed of the music.
- Note types each have a name and are drawn to show how long they should be held for when playing.

NOTE NAME	NOTE SYMBOL	NOTE LENGTH
Semibreve		4 beats
Minim		2 beats
Crotchet		1 beat
Quaver		$\frac{1}{2}$ beat
Semiquaver		$\frac{1}{4}$ beat
Demisemiquaver		$\frac{1}{8}$ beat

## Fun facts about Music

- Not all famous musicians read music. Three examples of those who can't/couldn't are Taylor Swift, Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley.
- Listening to music enhances physical performance – this is why many athletes listen to music before competitions.
- Listening to music uses the entire brain.