KS3 GRADE DESCRIPTORS

Target Grade: .....

Music

	Pitch	Time	Rhythm	Shape	Performance
Pre -Foundational	Largely inaccurate notes and pitch	Uneven tempo and/or pulse.	Rhythmic patterns partially accurate.	Musical shape and detail largely unrealised.	Struggles to keep going and recover after slips
Foundational	Frequent note errors; Insufficiently reliable intonation to maintain tonality.	Unsuitable and/or uncontrolled tempo; Irregular pulse.	Overall rhythmic accuracy.	Musical shape and detail insufficiently conveyed.	Some recovery from slips; some musical involvement.
Emerging	Generally correct notes; Sufficiently reliable intonation to maintain tonality.	Suitable tempo; Generally stable pulse.	Rhythmic patterns are well conveyed.	Some realisation of musical shape and/or detail.	Generally secure performance with prompt recovery from slips; positive musical involvement.
Developing	Mostly accurate notes and intonation with only occasional errors.	Secure tempo and pulse throughout with some control.	Rhythms accurate with a good sense of pulse and flow.	Clear musical shaping with appropriate detail.	Confident performance showing musical conviction and growing stylistic awareness.
Secure	Accurate notes and intonation throughout with only minor inaccuracies.	Sustained tempo with effective flexibility where appropriate.	Rhythms consistently accurate and stylistically secure.	Well-realised musical shaping and expressive detail.	Assured performance; character and style communicated effectively.
Advanced	Highly accurate notes and intonation throughout.	Fluent, controlled tempo with expressive flexibility.	Excellent rhythmic accuracy and precision.	Expressive, stylistically convincing musical shaping and detail.	Fully committed performance with confident communication and secure recovery from any slips.