



Glossary of terms

Core subjects

Maths

- **Abstract:** part of the CPA approach. The “symbolic” stage, where children use abstract symbols to model problems, for example, mathematical symbols.
- **Addition:** addition is combining two or more numbers together to make a new number called the sum. The sign for addition is +. This is also called the plus sign.
- **Coherence:** lessons are broken down into small connected steps that gradually unfold the concept, providing access for all children and leading to a generalisation of the concept and the ability to apply the concept to a range of contexts (NCETM)
- **Commutative:** you can change the order of the numbers when adding or multiplying and the answer will not change.
- **Concrete:** part of the CPA approach. The “doing” stage in which children use concrete objects to model problems.
- **Deepening:** activities to further challenge a child.
- **Digit:** there are ten digits. They are 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9. These digits are used to build up other numbers.
- **Division:** division is sharing things equally. 2. Division is grouping into sets of the same size. The sign for division is \div .
- **Estimate:** when you make an estimate you judge the amount without measuring or calculation. A guess is different to an estimate. When you guess you do not have any idea of the answer.
- **Five frame:** a frame arranged in a 1-by-5 array into which objects, e.g. counters, are placed to show numbers less than or equal to five.
- **Fraction:** fractions are usually parts of something. The bottom part of a fraction is called the denominator. It tells you the number of equal parts. The top part is the numerator. It tells you the number of those parts you are dealing with.
- **Fluency:** quick and efficient recall of facts and procedures and the flexibility to move between different contexts and representations of mathematics
- **Geometry:** geometry is the part of mathematics that deals with lines, curves, angles and shapes. Geometrical shapes are made from straight lines, circles and arcs.
- **Inequality symbols:** used to compare values of number & includes = equal to, > more than, < less than
- **Mastery:** mastering maths means pupils acquiring a deep, long-term, secure and adaptable understanding of the subject. ‘Teaching for mastery’ describes the elements of classroom practice and school organisation that combine to give pupils the best chances of mastering maths. Achieving mastery means acquiring a solid enough understanding of the maths that’s been taught to enable pupils to move on to more advanced material.
- **Maths story:** a problem is presented to explore.
- **Mathematical Thinking:** if taught ideas are to be understood deeply, they must not merely be passively received but must be worked on by the student: thought about, reasoned with and discussed with others (NCETM)
- **Measure (measurement):** a measure is the size of something using a measuring unit. The measuring units are usually metric or imperial. When you have measured something you record the measurement. Measurements include grams, metres, seconds and degrees.
- **Multiples:** lots of the same number or quantity. Multiples are like multiplication tables.
- **Multiplication:** multiplication is adding lots of the same number together. The multiplication symbol is x.
- **Numeral:** a numeral is any symbol or word for a number. 3 & three are all numerals.
- **Part whole:** part-part-whole thinking refers to how numbers can be split into parts. It allows children to see the relationship between a number and its component parts. A part whole model is often split into one whole and two parts and used as a visual representation.
- **Pictorial:** part of the CPA approach. The “seeing” stage in which visual representations of concrete objects are used to model problems.
- **Place Value:** place value is the value a digit has because of its position in a number. The same digit can have different values depending on its position in a number.
- **Reasoning:** involves thinking through mathematical problems logically in order to arrive at solutions. It also involves being able to identify what is important and unimportant in solving a problem and to explain or justify a solution (NCETM)
- **Representation and Structure:** representations used in lessons expose the mathematical structure being taught, the aim being that students can do the maths without recourse to the representation (NCETM)

- Statistics: maths that deals with the interpretation, classification, analysis and interpretation of numerical facts and data.
- Strengthening: activities to further support a child.
- Subitising: to perceive the number of (a group of items) at a glance and without counting, such as looking at the face of a dice.
- Subtraction: subtraction is taking one number away from another. 2. Subtraction is the difference between two numbers. 3. Subtraction is the inverse of addition. The sign for subtraction is -. This is called the minus sign.
- Symmetry: there are different types of symmetry. Plane shapes can be symmetrical about a line or have rotational symmetry about a point. Solid shapes can have symmetry about a plane or axis.
- Tally: tally is a mark which shows how often something happens.
- Time: time is how long something lasts. It is measured in units such as seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years. Clocks and watches are used to tell the time. Stopwatches and timers are used to measure time.
- Variation: variation is twofold. It is firstly about how the teacher represents the concept being taught, often in more than one way, to draw attention to critical aspects, and to develop deep and holistic understanding. It is also about the sequencing of the episodes, activities and exercises used within a lesson and follow up practice, paying attention to what is kept the same and what changes, to connect the mathematics and draw attention to mathematical relationships and structure (NCETM)

English

General

- Apostrophe: 1, showing place of missing letters, e.g. I'm and 2, marking possessives, e.g. Hannah's mother.
- Blending: merging the phonemes together.
- Capital letter: used to indicate the beginning of a new sentence and proper nouns.
- Caption: links to an image
- Clause: a special type of phrase whose head is a verb.
- Command: asking or telling someone to do something, often ends with an exclamation mark.
- Compound word: contains at least two root words.
- Digraph: 2 letters making one phoneme.
- Exclamation: expressing a feeling, often ends with an exclamation mark.
- Finger space: spacing between words in a phrase or sentence.
- Full stop: indicates the end of a sentence.
- Grapheme: the letter/letters representing the phoneme.
- Phrase: a group of words that are grammatically connected so that they stay together, and that expand a single word.
- Phoneme: the smallest unit of sound in a word.
- Plural: more than one
- Prefix: added to the beginning of a root word in order to turn it into another word.
- Question: is a sentence, phrase or word which asks for information, ends with a question mark.
- Root word: can stand alone with meaning. Prefixes and suffixes can be added to root words.
- Segmenting: breaking a word into individual phonemes.
- Sentence: a group of words which are grammatically connected to each other, but not to any words outside of the sentence.
- Singular: one, opposite to plural.
- Statement: a declaration or remark.
- Suffix: an ending, cannot stand on its own as a complete word.
- Trigraph: 3 letters making one phoneme.
- Word: a group of letters making a word with meaning.

Year 1 Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation (appendix 2 National Curriculum)

- Word: Regular plural noun suffixes –s or –es [for example, dog, dogs; wish, wishes], including the effects of these suffixes on the meaning of the noun. Suffixes that can be added to verbs where no change is needed in the spelling of root words (e.g. helping, helped, helper). How the prefix un– changes the meaning of verbs and adjectives [negation, for example, unkind, or undoing: untie the boat]
- Sentence: How words can combine to make sentences. Joining words and joining clauses using and
- Text:: Sequencing sentences to form short narratives

- Punctuation: Separation of words with spaces. Introduction to capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences. Capital letters for names and for the personal pronoun I.
- Terminology for pupils: Letter, capital letter, singular, plural, full stop, question mark, exclamation mark

Year 2 Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation (appendix 2 National Curriculum)

- Word: Formation of nouns using suffixes such as –ness, –er and by compounding [for example, whiteboard, superman]. Formation of adjectives using suffixes such as –ful, –less (A fuller list of suffixes can be found in the year 2 spelling section in English Appendix 1). Use of the suffixes –er, –est in adjectives and the use of –ly in Standard English to turn adjectives into adverb.
- Sentence: Subordination (using when, if, that, because) and co-ordination (using or, and, but). Expanded noun phrases for description and specification [for example, the blue butterfly, plain flour, the man in the moon]. How the grammatical patterns in a sentence indicate its function as a statement, question, exclamation or command.
- Text: Correct choice and consistent use of present tense and past tense throughout writing. Use of the progressive form of verbs in the present and past tense to mark actions in progress [for example, she is drumming, he was shouting].
- Punctuation: Use of capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences. Commas to separate items in a list. Apostrophes to mark where letters are missing in spelling and to mark singular possession in nouns [for example, the girl's name].
- Terminology for pupils: noun, noun phrase, statement, question, exclamation, command, compound, suffix, adjective, adverb, verb, tense (past, present), apostrophe, comma.

Science

- Adapted: suited to the environment where the organism lives.
- Air: a mixture of gases including oxygen.
- Balanced diet: a diet that gives the body the right amount of all the nutrients it needs.
- Canines: pointed teeth that tear food.
- Carbohydrate: food that gives the body energy – there are two types starches and sugars.
- Carbon dioxide: gas that is found in the air.
- Carnivore: animal that only eats other animals.
- Carpal: the female part of a flower.
- Cell: tiny parts that make up all living things.
- Chlorophyll: the green stuff in plants that does photosynthesis and makes food.
- Consumer: something that consumes food and doesn't produce it.
- Excretion: getting rid of waste from the body.
- Fabric: made from fibres spun and woven together.
- Food chain: shows what food is for what.
- Food web: a lot of food chains linked up.
- Germ: a non scientific term for microbe.
- Germination/germinate: when a seed starts to grow.
- Habitat: where an organism lives.
- Heart beat: the heart pumps blood out.
- Herbivore: an animal that only eats plants.
- Incisors: teeth that cut food.
- Life cycle: the stages an organism goes through from life until death.
- Material: what something is made of – doesn't mean the same as fabric.
- Microbe/micro-organism: very tiny living things.
- Minerals: needed by plants to help them grow.
- Molars: teeth that grind food.
- Muscles: pull on bones and make you move.
- Nutrients: chemicals that organisms need to grow.
- Organ: part of the body that has a special job.
- Organism: a living thing, animal or plant.
- Oxygen: a gas in the air that our bodies need to keep us alive
- Photosynthesis: making food from carbon dioxide and water – needs chlorophyll and sunlight.
- Plant food: minerals we give to a plant to help it grow better – the plant makes its own food.
- Pollen: the male part that goes to make a new seed.
- Pollination/pollinate: getting pollen to the stigma.

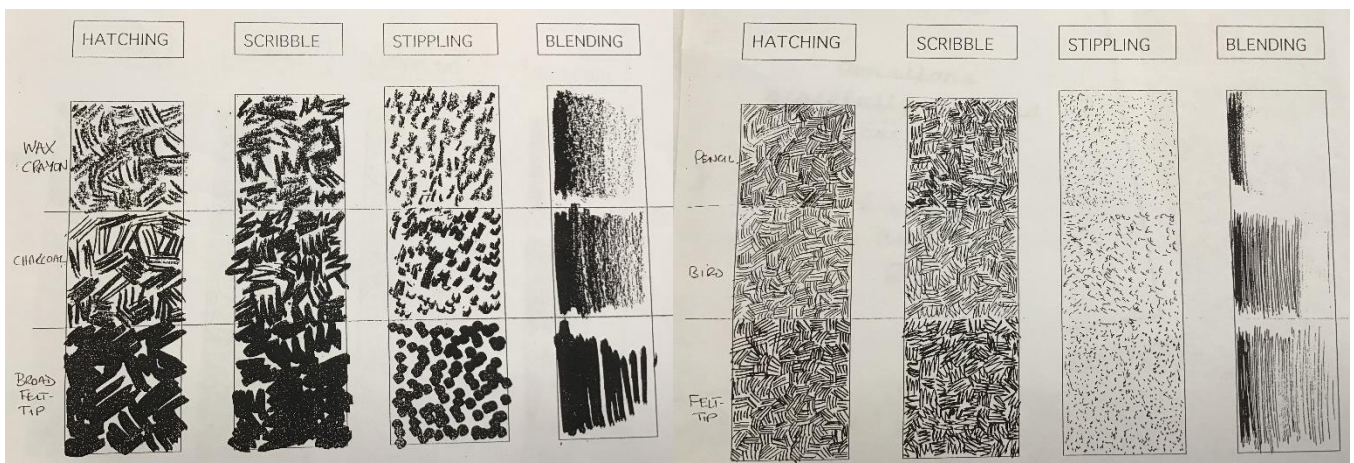
- Predator: an animal that eats other animals.
- Prey: an animal killed and eaten by a predator.
- Producer: an organism that makes its own food.
- Property: a quality of material, like hard, shiny, conducts electricity etc.
- Protein: food that builds the muscle.
- Pulse: the rhythm of the heart beating.
- Reproduction/reproduce: making a new generation – animals have babies, new plants grow from seeds.
- Respiration/respire: using oxygen to turn food into energy.
- Ribs: the bones in the chest that protect the heart and the lungs.
- Root: part of a plant under the ground that takes in minerals and water.
- Skull: the bones that protect the brain.
- Spine: the backbone.
- Stamen: the male part of a flower.
- Stem: holds a plant upright.
- Stigma: at the top of the carpel where the pollen lands.
- Style: the bit that holds up the stigma.
- Sugars: a type of carbohydrate, example honey.
- Variation: differences in living things.
- Vein: take blood back to the heart.
- Vertebrate: animal with a back bone.

Foundation subjects

Art and Design

- Abstract art: painting or sculpture which does not attempt a complete imitation of objects or effects in nature, but instead uses form and colour selectively and for their own sake.
- Blending: see image
- Block Printing: basically a stamp print, those parts of the block that are not to be printed are cut away and removed.
- Carve: to cut or chip in order to form something.
- Collage: the use of a variety of materials stuck on a ground to form a composition or part of a composition together with an element of painting or drawing.
- Complementary Colours: the 3 primary colours produce white, any one combined with a mixture of the other two also produces white; thus red is the complementary of green (blue and yellow mixed together), blue is the complementary of orange (red and yellow) etc.
- Composition: the art of weaving together the various visual elements in a picture to give a well-balanced and coherent effect.
- Contour: line defining shape or form.
- Design: to work out the structure/form of something as by making a sketch, outline, pattern or plans.
- Easel: a stand on which a painting is supported while the artist works on it.
- Form: the shape or configuration of something as distinct from its colour, texture, etc., its appearance; its organised structure or order.
- Glaze: a compound of minerals that forms a glassy coating on ceramic ware when subjected to sufficient heat.
- Graphic Art: refers to those arts that rely essentially on line and tone such as drawing and various types of engraving.
- Grid: a regular network or pattern of, usually straight lines, used to correctly place a pattern on a surface.
- Hatching: lines crossed parallel to show tone or shadow (see image).
- High Light: the point or points of greatest brilliance in a picture.
- Impressed Decoration: marks or patterns made by pushing objects into the surface of the clay.
- Impressionism: technically, the replacement of outline and chiaroscuro by pure colour designed to give the natural effect of light. They aimed to capture the passing moment, by means of sketch technique, strong colours and a commitment to 'plein-air' (on the spot) painting with as little studio, retouching work as possible. Leading members: Monet, Degas, Cassatt.
- Junk Art: works constructed from worthless materials, refuse, rubbish.
- Kneading: wedging or working clay with fingers to obtain an even texture.
- Line: a narrow continuous mark; the edge or contour of a shape.
- Masking: the use of paper or tape to block out an area to be printed/coloured etc.

- Medium: term used to describe the various methods and materials of the artist.
- Modelling: to form in clay, wax etc.
- Motif: a recurring form or shape in a design or pattern.
- Neutral Colours: colours on the white-grey-black scale.
- Outline: a line by which an object or figure is or appears to be bounded.
- Palette: a tray on which the artist lays out his colours.
- Pattern: a decorative design, an arrangement of repeated or corresponding parts.
- Perspective: a method of showing depth and distance by making things diminish in size as they recede into the distance and by the convergence of paralleled lines.
- Pointillism: a system of painting with dots or red, yellow and blue on to the picture surface, placing colours scientifically in relation to each other. Leading members: Seurat, Signac.
- Pop Art: a movement centred on the 1960's in which artists work evoked the brash and colourful world of adverts, pop entertainment and popular reading/comics. Leading members: Blake, Hockney, Warhol, Lichtenstein.
- Post-Impressionism: this movement grew out of the Impressionists and was a reaction against or a modification of the aims of Impressionism: Cezanne and Seurat tried to regain a feeling of order. Gauguin attempted to express a world of imagination and spirituality and Van Gogh tried to capture elemental emotions..
- Primary Colours: are colours that cannot be made from other colours: red, yellow and blue.
- Relief: sculpture on a flat surface.
- Scale: relative or proportionate size.
- Scribble: basic strokes of pencil (see image)
- Secondary Colours: a colour made by mixing two primary colours: red + yellow = orange.
- Shading: blocks of tone used to indicate shadow areas.
- Shape: the outward form of an object defined by outline.
- Sketch: a rough drawing or delineation of something, giving outlines or prominent features without detail, especially one intended to serve as the basis of a more finished picture.
- Stencil: a thin sheet of paper, metal, etc., perforated with a design that is reproduced on paper or fabric when the sheet is laid on them and colour is brushed through the openings.
- Still Life: painting of an inanimate object, from the French 'Nature Morte'.
- Stippling: tiny dots built up to depict shadows, etc (see image).
- Texture: the surface of a material, especially as perceived by the sense of touch; the representation of the nature of a surface.
- Tone: the variations of a colour or of gradations between black and white, produced either by dilution or by mixing in white. Can also refer to the dominant effect of colour: warm or cool.
- Wash: a flat tint of watercolour applied with a full brush to flow evenly over the paper.
- Watercolour: a form of painting on paper with transparent colours.



Computing

- Algorithm: An algorithm is a step by step guide to solve a problem or achieve a particular objective such as make a cup of tea or navigate to a set place. Computer programs require algorithms to be written in an agreed, unambiguous language which they can follow precisely. It is a sequence of instructions, or a set of rules for performing a specific task. All correct algorithms should produce the right answer, some are more efficient than others. We want to find the most efficient ones! Computer programs, like algorithms, are comprised of sets of rules or instructions but differ in that they have to be written in a precise language that the computer can

understand. Programs are made up of statements in a limited but precisely understood vocabulary. Each statement has one particular meaning and the computer will follow the instructions given, no more and no less.

- Create and debug simple programs: Programming involves taking an idea for doing something and turning it into instructions the computer can understand. This could be writing a set of commands for a Bee-bot or Roamer. When a pupil is writing a program, they need a clear idea of what it will do and how it should do it. It won't always work and one of the most rewarding aspects of programming is to find and fix the mistakes, this is called debugging. This involves realising that there is a fault (in the instructions for how to move a Bee-bot for eg) and working out which part of the program or algorithm has caused the problem, and then thinking logically about how to fix it. This is best done collaboratively. (NB this links in with resilience, perseverance and persistence)
- Using logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of simple programs: Getting a pupil to role play with a partner how to work through an algorithm can offer a far deeper insight into what it does, 'stepping in' to the program can give a more immediate sense of what is going on. Children should also be encouraged to predict what a program might do before they press return or click the button and to explain their prediction logically. They should follow the same set of rules when predicting. Eg a pupil who expects a Bee-bot to jump doesn't understand the constraints of its programming language or hardware.

Design and Technology

- Axle: Usually round material which links two wheels in order for those two wheels to rotate simultaneously.
- Bow saw: a metal-framed crosscut saw in the shape of a bow with a coarse wide blade. Used in FS.
- Block: The mechanism that holds a pulley wheel.
- Block and Tackle: A pulley wheel, block and string all working together.
- Bodkin: A long large eyed needle made from plastic or steel especially designed for weaving.
- Cog: A single tooth on a gear wheel.
- Cook's Knife: Firm bladed knife used for cutting and chopping. Usually about 15cm long. Care needed.
- Corriflute: Corrugated plastic sheet.
- Crank: A bent handle which facilitates the turning of a wheel or axle.
- Cross Section: Often used in drawings to show the inside of an item.
- Dowel: Round wood. Sometimes called dowelling. The size can vary from a cocktail stick to a broom handle.
- Dye: Used to change the colour of cloth by soaking with a coloured medium. See also Mordant.
- Food Technology: The study of the ways in which foods are prepared and changed to make other foods, safer foods or preserved foods.
- G-Clamp: Acts as a third hand. Used for fixing items firmly to a table in order for them to be worked on.
- Gear: The generic term for a wheel which has teeth round its circumference.
- Gearing: The action of speeding up or down the rotational speed within a machine. Gears do not necessarily need to be involved.
- Glasspaper: Correct term for sandpaper. There are other types of abrasive papers.
- Glue Gun: See Low Melt Glue Gun and Hot Melt Glue Gun. Both need to be used with great care.
- Hacksaw: saw originally designed to cut metal and plastic but ideal as a saw for cutting small pieces of wood.
- Hardboard: Thin manufactured board made from wood fibre. Often appears smooth on one side with a textured mesh pattern on the other.
- Hessian: A loosely woven, coarse fabric that can be found in a variety of colours.
- Laminate: A material that is created by using layers such as plywood. This term is also used for kitchen work surfaces due to the way they are made.
- Loom: The frame to which Warp threads are fixed.
- Machine: Apparatus which performs a mechanical task.
- Mechanism: The movable part of a machine. Often changes one type of force into another e.g. up and down to round.
- Net: The shape of a box when opened and flattened out. A good way of storing boxes before remaking them inside out.
- Pilot Hole: A small hole made into a material before a larger hole is drilled. Helps with accuracy.
- Pivot: Point about which a lever will rotate.
- Portrait: Position of a piece of paper so that its height is greater than its width. See also 'landscape'.
- Products: Any item, or a group of items, that has been made either professionally or by children.
- Prototype: An accurate model made of a design in order to test aspects before the final production is created.
- Pulley: A grooved wheel into which string or rope will run.
- Pulley System: A set of pulleys working together which increase or decrease the rate of rotation of the shafts. Can make lifting heavy weights easier.

- PVA – Poly Vinyl Acetate: Plastic from which the school white glue is made.
- Risk Assessment: Process by which schools assess the risk to health and safety of processes which are being carried out.
- Sandpaper: See Glasspaper.
- Vegetable Knife: Firm bladed knife used for cutting and peeling. Usually about 10cm long. Care needed.
- Weave: To thread between. Not necessarily restricted to textiles.

Geography

- Ariel Photograph: a photograph taken from an aircraft or satellite in flight.
- Atlas: a collection of maps, usually in a book form.
- Beach: an area of sand or shingle sloping down to a sea or lake.
- City: a large settlement of people found within a country.
- Coast: the line or zone where the land meets the sea.
- Compass: magnetic instrument used for finding direction.
- Compass Rose: a diagram on a map which shows direction (showing points of compass).
- Continent: one of the earth's large land masses, which, with the exception of Antarctica, are made up of a group of countries. (The seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and South America).
- Country: an area of land with boundaries which fits within a continent.
- Environment: the natural surroundings of a place.
- Equator: an imaginary line around the centre of the earth at 0° latitude.
- Factory: a place of work that produces goods to be sold.
- Farm: a place where livestock is reared or crops grown.
- Fieldwork: looking at geography outdoors or in real life context.
- Forest: a large wooded area having a thick growth of trees and plants.
- Global: covering or relating to the whole world.
- Hill: a mound of earth with an increasing gradient.
- House: building used as a home or dwelling.
- Human processes: things created/affected by people. These processes would not occur without human involvement.
- Interaction: the links and connections between people, places or processes.
- Interdependent: where people, places and processes rely on other people, places and processes in order to work.
- Landmark: human or physical feature which is well known in an area and can represent that place.
- Locality: an area and its surroundings.
- Location: the description of where something is in relation to its surroundings.
- Map: a diagram to show where places are located and features of places.
- Ocean: a large expanse of sea water (5 oceans in world – Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern).
- Office: a place of work.
- Pattern: an arrangement of repeated or corresponding parts.
- Physical Processes: an event or sequence of events that occur naturally due to the power of the planet.
- Plan perspective: a simple diagram that shows a birds eye view or a cross section of an area/feature.
- River: a natural channel of water flowing from source to mouth.
- Seasonal: a process or pattern which can be identified at a certain time of the year.
- Shop: a place where goods are bought and sold.
- Soil: the top layer of the land surface of the earth that is composed of disintegrated rock particles, humus, water and air.
- Symbol: an image used to represent a word, often seen on maps.
- Variation: differences which can exist between places or over time.
- Valley: a depression in the landscape, found in areas of hilly or mountainous relief. Usually formed by erosion or movements in the earth's crust.
- Village: a small group of houses in a country area and possibly some services such as a shop.
- Weather: conditions created by day to day changes in the earth's atmosphere.

History

- Artefact: an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.

- Century: a period of 100 years.
- Chronology: the arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence.
- Decade: a period of ten years.
- New: discovered recently.
- Now: at the present time.
- Old: belonging to the past, having lived for a long time.
- Past: gone by in time
- Present: existing or occurring now.
- Recently: not long ago
- Source: a place, person, or thing from which something originates or can be obtained
- Timeline: a graphical representation of a period of time, on which important events are marked.
- Yesterday: day before today.

Music

- Accompaniment: the music that supports the main melody
- Beat: the regular basic unit of length in musical time
- Body percussion: using claps, stamps, slaps and tongue clicks etc. to create rhythmic patterns and sounds
- Call and echo: a question and answer pattern in which a solo voice sings a phrase, and then a group of voices copies this phrase exactly
- Call and response: a question and answer pattern in which a solo voice sings a phrase, and then a group of voices responds by singing something different
- Drone: a long sustained note or chord
- Dynamics: the loudness or softness of the music
- Melody: a series of notes creating a distinctive & memorable sequence (often referred to as 'the tune')
- Ostinato: a repeated rhythmic or melodic pattern
- Percussion: instruments that create sound by being struck, scraped or rattled
- Pitch: how high or low a musical note is
- Pulse: the regular beat of a piece of music
- Tempo: the speed of the music
- Tune: a series of notes creating a distinctive and memorable sequence (also known as a 'melody')
- Vocal percussion: using the voice to imitate the sound of percussion instruments

Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)

Refer to Cambridgeshire scheme of work units. Key concepts for each lesson identifies specific and relevant vocabulary to be used.

Physical Education (PE)

- Warm up: preparing for physical exertion or a performance by exercising or practising gently beforehand
- Conditioned phrase: This is used in gymnastics lessons and is a short sequence of gymnastics actions which are performed during a lesson (usually as part of the warm up). These are used to help develop a pupils body strength and body management and are teacher led.
- Cool down: an easy exercise, done after a more intense activity, to allow the body to gradually transition to a resting or near-resting state
- Motif: This is used in dance. It is a short pattern of taught movements which is usually based on the theme of the dance.
- Movement phrase: used in both gymnastics and dance and is where the pupils are trying to link together actions into a phrase of movement. This is not teacher led; pupils are using their own ideas to put movements together.

Refer to Cambridgeshire scheme of work units. Key concepts for each lesson identifies specific and relevant vocabulary to be used.

Religious Education (RE)

- Religion: a system of beliefs and values usually expressed in worship, resulting in a distinctive way of living and often marked by corporate activity.
- God: Ultimate Reality: the Supreme Being, the Creator of the Universe, conceived by different religions in a variety of ways.

Christian Glossary

- Advent: the period beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (40 days before Christmas in the Eastern Orthodox tradition). A time of spiritual preparation for Christmas.
- Altar: the table in a Christian church at which the bread and wine are consecrated in communion services
- Baptism: rite of initiation involving immersion in, or sprinkling or pouring of, water.
- Bible: Christian holy book.
- Christ: the anointed one. Christ, is the source of the words Christian and Christianity.
- Christmas: festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ (25 December, in most Churches).
- Church: (i) The whole community of Christians. (ii) The building in which Christians worship. (iii) A particular denomination.
- Creation: the creating of the universe, especially when regarded as an act of God.
- Crucifixion: roman method of executing criminals and traitors by fastening them to a cross until they died of asphyxiation; used in the case of Jesus Christ and many who opposed the Romans.
- Disciple: dedicated followers, e.g. 12 disciples following Jesus.
- Easter: central Christian festival which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- Faith: strong belief in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than proof
- Font: receptacle to hold water used in baptism.
- God: the principal object of faith.
- Good Friday: the Friday in Holy Week. Commemorates the day Jesus died on the cross.
- Harvest festival: a Christian festival. A celebration of the annual harvest, especially (in Britain) to which gifts of food are brought for the poor.
- Holy: dedicated or consecrated to God or a religious purpose; sacred.
- Holy Week: the week before Easter, when Christians recall the last week of Jesus' life on Earth.
- Hymn: a religious song.
- Jesus Christ: the central figure of Christian history and devotion. The second person of the Trinity.
- Lectern: stand supporting the Bible, often in the shape of an eagle.
- Lent: penitential season. The 40 days leading up to Easter.
- Lord: title used for Jesus to express his divine lordship over people, time and space.
- Maundy Thursday: the Thursday in Holy Week. Commemorates the Last Supper.
- New Testament: collection of 27 books forming the second section of the Canon of Christian Scriptures.
- Old Testament: that part of the Canon of Christian Scriptures which the Church shares with Judaism, comprising 39 books covering the Hebrew Canon, and in the case of certain denominations, some books of the Apocrypha.
- Palm Sunday: the Sunday before Easter, commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when he was acknowledged by crowds waving palm branches. Paraclete Comforter Advocate. Term used for the Holy Spirit.
- Prayer: request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or another deity.
- Pulpit: an elevated platform from which sermons are preached.
- Resurrection: (i) the rising from the dead of Jesus Christ on the third day after the crucifixion. (ii) the rising from the dead of believers at the Last Day. (iii) the new, or risen, life of Christians.
- Worship: the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity

Hindu Glossary

- Aum or Om: the sacred symbol and sound representing the ultimate; the most sacred of Hindu words.
- Avatar, Avatara, Avtara: one who descends. Refers to the descent of a deity, most commonly Vishnu. Sometimes it is translated as incarnation which, although inaccurate, may be the best English word available.
- Divali, Diwali, Dipavali, Deepavali: festival of lights at the end of one year and beginning of the new year, according to one Hindu calendar.
- Guru: spiritual teacher, preceptor or enlightener.
- Hanuman: the monkey warrior who faithfully served Rama and Sita. Also called Pavansuta (son of the wind God).
- Havan: the basis of many Hindu rituals used at weddings and on other ceremonial occasions; the ceremony or act of worship in which offerings of ghee and grains are made into fire.
- Hindu: a person adhering to aspects of Hinduism.
- Holi: the festival of colours, celebrated in Spring.
- Lakshmi: goddess of fortune.
- Mandir: temple.
- Medhi: a form of body art.
- Rama: the incarnation of the Lord, and hero of the Ramayana (avoid using the variant 'Ram' for obvious reasons).
- Rangoli: is a colourful design made on the floor near the entrance to a house to welcome guests at Diwali.

- Ravana: demon king.
- Sita, Seeta: the divine consort of Rama.
- Varsha Pratipada: the day of Creation, celebrated as New Year's Day by many Hindus.
- Vishnu: is one of the principal deities of Hinduism.

Muslim Glossary

- Allah: the Islamic name for God in the Arabic language. Used in preference to the word God, this Arabic term is singular, has no plural, nor it is associated with masculine, feminine characteristics.
- Barakah: blessings.
- Bilal: the first Mu'adhin of Islam (see Adhan), a companion of Prophet Muhammad, formerly an Abyssinian slave (Radhi-Allahu-anhu - may Allah be pleased with him).
- Id-ul-Fitr: celebration of breaking the fast on the day after Ramadan
- Imam Leader: a person who leads the communal prayer, or a founder of an Islamic school of jurisprudence. In Shi'ah Islam, Imam is also the title of Ali (Radhi-Allahu-anhu - may Allah be pleased with him) and his successors.
- Islam: peace attained through willing obedience to Allah's divine guidance.
- Mosque: a is a place of worship for Muslims.
- Muslim: one who claims to have accepted Islam by professing the Shahadah.
- Prophet: a person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God
- Qur'an: that which is read or recited. The Divine Book revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Allah's final revelation to humankind.
- Ramadan: the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, during which fasting is required from just before dawn until sunset, as ordered by Allah in the Qur'an.

Jewish Glossary

- Challah, Hallah: enriched bread used particularly on Shabbat and during festivals.
- Dreidel: A dreidel is a four-sided spinning top, played with during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.
- Halakhah, Halacha: the Way. The code of conduct encompassing all aspects of Jewish life.
- Hanukkah, Chanukah Dedication: an eight-day festival of lights to celebrate the re-dedication of the temple following the Maccabean victory over the Greeks.
- Huppah, Chuppah: canopy used for a wedding ceremony, under which the bride and groom stand.
- Kiddush: a prayer sanctifying Shabbat and festival days, usually recited over wine
- Kippah, Yamulka: capel Head covering worn during prayers, Torah study, etc. Some followers wear constantly.
- Kosher, Kasher: fit; proper. Foods permitted by Jewish dietary laws.
- Menorah: seven-branched candelabrum which was lit daily in the Temple.
- Rabbi: my teacher. An ordained Jewish teacher. Often the religious leader of a Jewish community.
- Rosh Hashanah, Rosh Ha-Shanah: head of the Year. Jewish New Year.
- Sefer Torah, Torah scroll: the five books of Moses handwritten on parchment and rolled to form a scroll.
- Shabbat, Shabbos: day of spiritual renewal & rest commencing at sunset Friday, terminating at nightfall Saturday.
- Shofar: Ram's horn blown at season of Rosh Hashana.
- Sukkah, Sukkot (pl): tabernacle; booth. A temporary dwelling used during Sukkot
- Sukkot: one of three biblical pilgrim festivals, Sukkot is celebrated in the Autumn.
- Synagogue Shul Bet Haknesset, Bet Hamidrash Building for Jewish public prayer, study and assembly.
- Yad: hand-held pointer used in reading the Sefer Torah.
- Yom Kippur: day of Atonement. Fast day occurring on the tenth day after Rosh Hashanah; a solemn day of Tefillah and Teshuva.

Sikh Glossary

Sikh terms are drawn from the Punjabi language, and the versions below are based upon that language.

- Anand karaj, Anand Sanskar: ceremony of bliss. Wedding ceremony.
- Baisakhi Vaisakhi: a major Sikh festival celebrating the formation of the Khalsa, 1699 CE.
- Gurdwara, Gurudwara: Sikh place of worship. Literally the 'doorway to the Guru'.
- Guru: teacher. In Sikhism, the title of Guru is reserved for the ten human Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib.
- Guru Granth Sahib Adi Granth (Granth' by itself should be avoided): primal collection of Sikh scriptures, compiled by Guru Arjan and given its final form by Guru Gobind Singh.
- Guru Nanak: the first Guru and the founder of the Sikh faith (1469-1539).

- Ik Oankar: Ik Onkar is the symbol that represents the one supreme reality and is a central tenet of Sikh religious philosophy.
- Kachera: traditional underwear/shorts. One of the five K's (see panj kakke).
- Kangha, Kanga: comb worn in the hair. One of the five K's (see panj kakke).
- Kara: steel band worn on the right wrist. One of the five K's (see panj kakke).
- Kesh Kes: uncut hair. One of the five K's (see panj kakke).
- Khalsa: the community of the pure. The Sikh community.
- Kirpan Sword: one of the five K's (see panj kakke). 'Dagger' should be avoided.
- Panj kakke: the five K' s. The symbols of Sikhism worn by Sikhs.
- Panth: the Sikh community.
- Sikh: a person who believes in the ten Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib.
- Sikhism: founded in the Punjab by Guru Nanak in the 15th Century CE and is a monotheistic religion. Sikhs think religion should be practised by living in the world and coping with life's everyday problems.
- Turban: A turban is a type of headwear based on cloth winding.

Humanism Glossary

- Celebrant: officiant is a person who performs humanist celebrancy services, such as non-religious weddings, funerals, child namings, coming of age ceremonies and other rituals.
- Faith: trust. Frequently used to mean same as religion.
- Happy Human: The Happy Human is an icon that has been adopted as an international symbol of secular humanism.
- Humanism: view of life based solely on our understanding of the natural world, human feelings, intelligence and creativity and on a personal commitment to valuing and cooperating with one another as fellow human beings.
- Science: the enterprise of creating and organising human understanding of the natural world, including humanity, through open enquiry, imaginative theory devising, invited challenge and testing against evidence.
- The Golden Rule: the principle of treating others as you want to be treated