



CPDL

HOW TO TEACH MUSICAL COMPOSITION & IMPROVISING FOR KS1

*CPDL for
KS1 staff*

*Led by experts
from Musica Kirklees*

Practical guidance

Ideas and inspiration

Thursday, October 23, 2025

9.00am - 3.30pm
University of Huddersfield

£120 per person

Places are limited

Register today!

Please turn over for details

EMAIL natalie.brown@musicakirklees.org
TO REGISTER or find out more



It is important that children at KS1 learn how to compose in a structured way throughout each year group

By the end of KS2 pupils should be able to read and write music and play the music back accurately; **pupils should begin building these skills and the confidence to use them throughout KS1.** These are skills which must be practised and regularly revisited in preparation for KS2. In the latest research document from Ofsted (September 2023), it is highlighted that many schools are lacking in any sort of composition and improvising teaching for their pupils and therefore that they are missing out on a key part of the curriculum.

What this course will cover:

- A structured approach to teaching musical notation and composition to KS1 children using percussion instruments
- How to guide young people so that they can confidently play their compositions back and perform their own, and other people's, rhythms and melodies
- How to build in opportunities for students to improvise and take the lead in musical activities
- How you can pass on this training to your colleagues using the material shared during the day, so that class teachers in your school gain the confidence to teach composition
- Some ideas about who to apply to for funding to help support your music making

What you'll take back to your school:

- You will be given rhythm cards which can be printed and used throughout your school
- Videos to aid each stage of the composition which can be used in lessons
- Advice on funding and contacts to approach
- Sample lesson plans for the stages of teaching composition
- 12 bar blues music sheets to allow children to improvise over the top
- An activities sheet on how to use the rhythm cards

The resources you will need in school to implement this training:

- Whiteboard and pens
- Class set of percussion – preferably hand drums
- Optional – a class set of tuned percussion instruments such as glockenspiels, ocarinas, boom-whackers or recorders
- Laminated rhythm cards (paper copies supplied on the day)

Please email natalie.brown@musicakirklees.org to register or find out more



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