### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

(Pupils should know/understand/be able to do/be aware of by the end of the lesson)

- Learn about strong beats and weak beats of the
- Understand how chords are used in reggae music and contribute to the texture of a song performing offbeat chords along with a bass line
- Create a reggae arrangement of a Caribbean song featuring offbeat chords and other features of reggae music

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

(The evidence to show that pupils have achieved the learning objectives)

### Level 3 (working towards) All Pupils:

Understand that the first beat of the bar is the strongest Perform a reggae beat clapping on the weak beats with the class Take part in a group reggae arrangement of a Caribbean song providing a rhythmic backing which emphaises the offbeats

### Level 4 (working at) Most Pupils

Understand that the third beat of the bar is the next strongest beat with beats two and four being the weakest Perform repeated chords off the beat in a reggae style Contribute to a group reggae arrangement of a Caribbean song by performing the bass line or offbeat chords part

### Level 5/6+ (working beyond/GAT) Some Pupils :

Take on a leading role in a group reggae arrangement of a Caribbean song by performing or singing the melody line in time and in tune with other parts with an awareness of how all parts fit together to form a texture reminiscent of reggae music

## LESSON STRUCTURE

# Offbeat Warm-up - Starter/Plenary 4 & Audio 9

Assemble pupils in a circle and enlarge and display the "onbeat rhythm grid" from Starter/Plenary 4. Begin by establishing a pulse counting "1, 2, 3, 4" repeatedly. Next look at the "strong" beat rhythm and ask pupils to clap in the beats with a crotchet note and rest in the boxes with the crotchet rest symbol while you keep a steady pulse on a suitable untuned percussion instrument. Next, ask pupils - what do you notice about the size of the crotchet notes in the "strong" beat rhythm line? The crotchets on beats 1 are larger than those on beat 3. Explain that the strongest beat of the bar always comes on the first beat, with bear 3 having the second strongest feel. Perform again with a large emphasis on beats 1 and a smaller emphasis on beats 3.

Then, display the "offbeat" rhythm grid from **Starter/Plenary 4** and ask pupils – what is the difference between the two rhythm grids? The "offbeat" rhythm grid shows beats 2 and 4 (the weakest two beats of the bar). Perform the "offbeat" rhythm grid. by clapping, with the same emphasis on both beats 2 and 4 along with a steady pulse. Explain that this "offbeat" feature is one of the main characteristics of reggae music which pupils learned about during lesson 1. Finally, play pupils Audio 9, an excerpt from "Rat in my Kitchen" by the 20th century reggae group UB40 and try stamping on the first beat of the bar and clapping in time on the weaker beats - beats 2 and 4. (10 mins)

### NC KS3 POS

Play and perform confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using their voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy and expression

Use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions

Identify and use the inter-related dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices

Listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians

Develop a deepening understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen, and its history

Play and perform confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts using their voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy

Use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and of musical styles, genres and traditions

and expression

Identify and use the inter-related dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices

# 1. Performing a Caribbean Song - "Yellow Bird" - Song Sheet 1 & Audio 8 & MIDI 6 & Score 2 & MIDI 7 & MIDI 8

Listen to "Yellow Bird" from Audio 8 and sing through the song to remind pupils from lesson 1 using Song Sheet 1, with Audio 8 and MIDI 6 to support learning, and perform in unison as a class. Attempt to sing with a Jamaican accent! Next, play pupils MIDI 7 to remind them how the bass line and chords sounded. Then play MIDI 8 asking pupils – what is different about the chords in this version? They are performed "offbeat" on the weak parts of the bar – beats 2 and 4 (relate to starter) Now, issue page 2 (and/or 3 – see SEN below), of Score 2, showing the bass line and "offbeat" chords to accompany "Yellow Bird". Model (using MIDI 8, if required) how the notes of each chord are repeated TWICE, on the second and fourth beats of the bar as opposed to holding each chord on the first beat for a count of 4, as in

Allow pupils to work in the same pairs as in lesson 1 and to learn and practice the bass line and offbeat chords.

(20 mins)

Continued..

Sore Main Activities

Starter Activity

LANGUAGE FOR LEARNING - spell/use/understand

Arrangement, Bass Line, Beat, Chords, Crotchet,

### Play and perform 2. Arranging "Yellow Bird" in a Reggae Style - Song Sheet 1 & Score 2 confidently in a range Once each pair of pupils can perform the bass line and offbeat chords to "Yellow of solo and ensemble contexts using their Bird". Group 2 or 3 pairs together to form groups of 4-6. Each group must create voice, playing their own Reggae arrangement of "Yellow Bird" which must feature the bass line musically, fluently and with accuracy (reiterate how important the bass line is in reggae music!), the offbeat chords and the **Core Main Activities Continued** and expression melody (sung or performed). Along with the key three elements, they are to create Improvise and their own Reggae backing rhythm using either untuned percussion or keyboard compose; and extend and develop musical rhythms. Allow each group suitable time to put together their group arrangements ideas by drawing on and then perform to the rest of the class recording performances. a range of musical structures, styles, (20 mins) genres and traditions Use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles genres and traditions Identify and use the inter-related dimensions of music expressively and with sophistication. including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices Identify and use the inter-related Evaluating Reggae Arrangements - Worksheet 4 Issue Worksheet 4 and play pupils recordings of their "Yellow Bird" reggae dimensions of music expressively and with **Plenary** arrangements. Pupils complete their evaluations as they listen. increasing sophistication, (10 mins) including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices CROSS CURRICULAR - LITERACY/ NUMERACY/CITIZENSHIP/ICT **EAL/SEN/GAT** Literacy - Jamaican "nation-language" (GAT) Higher ability pupils may be able to perform parts of Geography – the Caribbean 'Yellow Bird" on their own instruments - particularly guitarists. (SEN) Lower ability pupils may be able to perform the chords to R.E./Citizenship – Rastafarianism Technology - sound systems and amplification "Yellow Bird" using the single-finger function available on many Dance – associated dance moves to Reggae and other Caribbean (GAT) Higher ability pupils can be given the role of "mentor" dances helping lower ability pupils learn to play the offbeat chords to "Yellow Bird" (EAL) Pupils from a Jamaican origin may be able to share some

Crotchet Rest, Melody, Offbeat, Onbeat, Reggae,	their knowledge and understanding of reggae masic.
Strong Beat, Texture, Weak Beat	
<b>LESSON RESOURCES</b> – recording and playback equipment, keyboards, untuned percussion, drum (for starter activity)	
Y8U2SP4 – Onbeat and Offbeat Rhythm Grids	Y8U2A9 – Rat in my Kitchen – offbeat clap-a-long
Y8U2SS1 – Yellow Bird	Y8U2A8 – Yellow Bird
Y8U2MIDI6 - Yellow Bird Song Melody	Y8U2S2 – Yellow Bird
Y8U2MIDI7 – Yellow Bird Bass Line and On Beat Chords	Y8U2MIDI8 - Yellow Bird Bass line and Offbeat Chords
Y8U2W4 – Evaluating Reggae Arrangements	Y8U2CH2 - Reggae

of the similarities and differences between English and the nation-

Pupils could be asked to complete Cover/Homework 2 to develop

language of Jamaican with the class

**HOMEWORK SUGGESTIONS** 

their knowledge and understanding of reggae music