

Ukulele Curriculum Guidelines 2017-18

| Essentials | Abs Beginners Donna | Beginners Jimmy | Improvers 1 Ian | Improvers 2 Gordon | Improvers 3 Suzanne | Intermediate Finlay |
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| Instrument | Holding instrument posture,grip, strumming finger(s). | Improving control of instrument and posture. | Awareness of posture; hold on neck and body position to overcome difficulties playing | Continuing work on strumming hand, relaxed, smooth, use of damping. Swing strumming | Standing and sitting postures for performing Swing and syncopated strumming | Damping left hand in Closed chords Swing and syncopated strumming |
| Chords | C, Am, F, G7,C7 moving later to D7 | A7,Dm,D7, Em | Changing key within a song 1,4,5 Nashville system Em-B7, G-Em | Moveable chords. maj,min, 7th,maj7th,m7th,dim | Moveable chords. maj,min, 7th,maj7th,m7th,dim Role of diminished and augmented passing chords, some Altered chords | Flat keys(F,Bb,),wider use of minor keys and chords, CLOSED CHORDS More complexity and Harmony and Rhythm. Alternate voicings |
| Keys | C only | C (moving to G later) | Keys G, D | Key A | Key F | F, Bb,Bm,Gm, diminished, augmented passing chords |
| Strumming | Using back of 1st finger nail for Down, soft pad for Up. Down, down Down, up, down, up | Variety in strumming | 3/4 and 4/4 Missing some Downs or Ups to change emphasis on rhythm Damping with right hand. | Fills and more elaborate strums Damping with right hand. | Fills and more elaborate strums Damping with right hand. Fingerpicking | Fingerpicking Simple solo pieces incorporating melody and chords. Damping with left hand closed chords. More elaborate strums |
| Additional skills | Remembering some chord shapes without ref. to chord windows | Remembering some chord shapes without ref. to chord windows | Trying to remember chord fingering and sequences without paper | Remembering chord shapes and sequences without chord windows | basics of TABLATURE | Arranging songs, intros, breaks and outros TABLATURE |
| Musical knowledge/ understanding | Listening for cues to change chord | Chord substitution C, Am, F, G7 C, Am, Dm , G7 C, A7 , Dm, G7 C, A7 , D7 , G7 etc | Chord substitution within patterns (as with key C) | Relationships between chords (Nashville) I,II(m),IV,V(7th)VI(m) | Finding suitable alternate fingerings for familiar chords. | Recognising chords-ear skills Counting frets to establish what chord the shape will make |
| Development | Building confidence singing and playing | Moving to key of G | Moving to key of G,D Alternate fingerings Practising Slow Session | Working on a key change within a song using 1,4,5 Nashville system | Arranging songs; intros, breaks | Arranging and performing instrumentals; Improvisation |
| All students | Learning about GFW Taking part in social music making | Learning about GFW Taking part in social music making Listening for chord changes | Learning basic chords for Slow Sessions tunes to become part of sharing GFW repertoire. | Working on trad tune repertoire with a view to playing along with other classes. | Working on popular songs from all eras. Learning distinctions between Marches, Reels, Jigs,Strathspeys | Learning to remember patterns and leaving paper behind |
| Performance | Playing and singing simultaneously | Playing and singing simultaneously Starting and ending together | Starting and ending together Encourage attendance at Warm ups, Slow Sessions etc | Playing intros + fills Encourage attendance at Warm ups, Slow Sessions etc | Encourage attendance at Warm ups, Slow Sessions etc | Encourage attendance at Warm ups, Slow Sessions etc |