

Key concepts

- A 'Leavers' Song' will be largely positive.
- It will typically focus on the past, present and will look ahead to the future.
- It should evoke memories.
- They are typically repetitive and memorable.
- The lyrics should reflect the feelings you might have when leaving school, whether happy or sad or both!
- The melody should be 'catchy'.
- The arrangement will add interest to, and support the mood of, a song by using appropriate instruments and effects.
- A 'Leavers' Song' will typically consist of verses and a chorus.
- The tempo of the song should be reflective of the lyrics, whilst the melody should match the mood.
- Writing lyrics can be like writing poetry.
- A 'Leavers' Song' typically tells a chronological story.
- All verses should have the same rhyming pattern.
- The rhyming pattern could consist of pairs of lines, alternate lines, or just lines one and four, and five and eight.
- Melodies can be practised over a four-chord backing track.
- A chord progression is 'spelt' using Roman numerals.
- Composition can be recorded via different types of notation.
- Children's compositions can be practised on various untuned percussion instruments, such as chime bars and glockenspiels.

Key Vocabulary

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| lyrics | Words to accompany the melody |
| melody | The tune |
| arrangement | The process of transforming a collection of musical ideas into a complete track |
| verse | A repeated section of a song, featuring new lyrics on each repetition |
| chorus | A repeated section that contain the primary lyrical and music concepts |
| tempo | The speed of the music |
| Chord progression | A sequence of chords played in succession. |
| tuned | An instrument that can make different notes. |
| untuned | An instrument with no definite pitch, such as a bass drum |

Composer Information – The Castlefield Song

'The Castlefield Song' is traditionally sung in the Leavers' Assembly at the end of the Summer term. This song is sung by the entire school, with Year six performing the 'rap' section on their own. The music was arranged by Miss MacIver, who also wrote the lyrics.

Things to do at home

Listen to these songs. Jot down which elements make them a good 'leavers' song'.
['Never Forget'](#) by Take That
 'Toy Story' – ['You've got a Friend in Me'](#)
['With a Little help From my Friends'](#) by The Beatles
['Once I was in Year 1...'](#) – adapted from 'Seven' by Lukas Graham
['Reach'](#) by S Club 7