

Instrumental Music Tuition Information 2024/2025

Why learn an instrument?

Learning to play an instrument develops numerous non-musical skills which will benefit your child's education in a holistic way. These include organization, goal setting, problem-solving, perseverance, commitment, self-confidence, performance skills, communication and independence. Universities look for candidates with these skills and the ability to play an instrument demonstrates that your child has developed in these areas adding breadth and credibility to his/her CV. Additionally pupils gain the confidence and opportunity to participate in musical ensembles which foster social and team-building skills thereby broadening their extra-curricular experience.

How much does it cost?

The rate for the academic year 2024 - 2025 is £355 per term. This is for 10 x 40 minutes and you will be invoiced directly by your child's instrumental teacher

How do I pay?

Fees are paid directly to the instrumental teacher who will invoice you termly and in advance of lessons starting.

How long are the lessons?

40 minutes or (35 minutes if they are at lunchtime)

When are the lessons?

Lessons take place throughout the school day and during the lunch period. In a small number of cases, lessons may be held after or before school, but this is by arrangement with the instrumental teacher. The lessons are scheduled on a rotational basis so that pupils do not repeatedly miss the same curriculum subjects week after week. Lessons may not always be on a fixed day as this means there is more flexibility with rotating lessons and less chance of pupils missing the same lesson often.

At the end of each lesson, the teacher will arrange with the pupil, the time of his/her next lesson and this can be recorded in the practice diary or in the pupil's main school diary. The teacher will then post this time on the notice board at the end of the day for pupil reference. It is the pupil's responsibility to double check the notice board.

Can we select specific lesson times?

Generally, no - although in a small number of cases, lessons can be fixed at a lunchtime slot. These slots are taken up on a first come first served basis. Priority is given to pupils in Year 11 and the Sixth Form.

What about mainstream lessons missed?

Pupils should receive adequate notice from their instrumental teacher in advance of their lesson time. Pupils must request to be absent from a mainstream lesson at least 24 hours in advance of that lesson. (Subject teachers should agree this as the request is an act of courtesy). It is the pupil's responsibility to keep on top of any work missed.

What happens if my child wishes to terminate lessons?

It is recommended that your child maintains instrumental tuition for long enough to overcome any temporary wavering of enthusiasm. In any instance, a complete term's notice must be given if your child wishes to cease lessons. This must be given in writing to the school by the end of the first day of term (or half term to run to the next half-term).

Punctuality

In line with whole school policy and standards, punctuality to instrumental lessons is treated with the same importance as any other lesson in school. Pupils must ensure that they are organised in this respect. It is not the responsibility of the instrumental teacher to go hunting for late or absent pupils.

Missed Lessons

If the instrumental tutor is absent or late for any reason, he/she will rearrange an alternative lesson slot. Lessons missed due to a pupil's extreme lateness, forgetfulness, absence from school due to illness, medical or other appointments cannot be refunded or rearranged. If a pupil or parent is aware in advance that a lesson time is not going to be manageable due to a prior arrangement, this must be communicated to the instrumental teacher as soon as possible.

Communication and Reporting

You are encouraged to maintain contact with your child's instrumental teacher in order to support his/her progress. The practice diary can be used as a form of communication for teacher and parent if required. You will receive a formal report on your child's progress at the end of the year. This will include an effort and attainment grade which will be added to his/her overall school report.

What happens in a lesson and how can I help and support my child's progress?

This is very much dependent on what your child requires from learning an instrument. Different teachers work in different ways and teach to the requirement of the individual, whether that be working towards graded examinations or learning for pleasure. In any case, lessons will incorporate aspects of technique, notation, musical style and interpretation through pieces and exercises.

- Encourage your child to practise and support with positive feedback when deserved.
- Talk about his / her practice and encourage your child to perform to you from time to time but avoid being too intrusive.
- Try and encourage a regular practice routine – little and often is usually more effective than one big slog per week.
- Ensure there is a suitable space in which to practise.
- Keep in contact with the music teacher – then your child will be aware of your involvement.
- Encourage your child to make the most of any performing opportunities such as school concerts, competitions and class performances.
- Encourage your child to join a school ensemble. It can be less daunting than playing solo and apart from being fun, it will teach skills essential for the well-rounded musician.