St Hugh's School
Woodhall Spa
A Repton School

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC POLICY

Please note that this policy forms part of your obligation bound under clauses 3a to 3g (inclusive) of your Terms and Conditions of joining St Hugh's School. By signing the acceptance form for the school, you have already agreed to abide by the Terms and Conditions, and this policy there-in. A further signature is not necessary and will not be sought.

1. Overview

1.1 Music plays a central role at St. Hugh's. In addition to class music the school runs orchestras and choirs, performing to a high standard both in and out of school. Concerts and recitals take place throughout the year. All pupils are expected to attend the Christmas Concert, Junior Concert (years 3-6), Summer Concert and Christmas Carol Service; other events are not compulsory. Stage shows are produced in the Spring and Summer terms. Children are regularly entered for music exams and local competitions. Music thrives at St. Hugh's where standards are high and participation is considered normal.

2. Instrumental Lessons

2.1 **Overview and Availability:** A large number of children elect to take individual instrumental lessons on a wide range of instruments. Playing is encouraged: for most this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity. The school is fortunate to have a very dedicated and talented peripatetic music team which over the years has helped many children to gain satisfaction and enjoyment from their playing. We aim to cater for those who will become serious about their study, possibly going on to take a music scholarship, but also to provide a sense of achievement for those whose technical progress will not be so rapid. Tuition is available on string, brass, woodwind instruments, and on drums, guitar, piano and voice. In the course of time, a second instrument may be considered (this is quite common), with voice or piano being a useful complement to an orchestral study or vice versa. Generally children are encouraged to wait until they reach the main school (Year 3) before learning: before this time the choice available is severely limited by physique, and learning speed is such that students will quickly reach the same standard if they wait. (Early learning really only works if there are musicians in the family and if parents are realistically prepared for the very considerable time

commitment involved).

2.2 **Lessons and Fees:** Lessons last 30 minutes and are arranged on a rota basis during the academic day. Peripatetic teachers are self-employed and collect their fees independently of the school. Invoices are sent at the beginning of the term and payment is expected 14 days later. *Late payment of fees will result in a 10% surcharge*. Lessons will be suspended after 21 days until full payment is received and no reduction will be made for any lessons missed as a result in the interim period. Please see the opening paragraph of this policy document with regards the nature of the contract between parent, school and peripatetic teacher. Tuition books and music will be expected to be bought by parents directly. Teachers will provide details of any books and other accessories as they are required. Regular updates and comments are made from the teachers via the "Practice And Lesson Record". Each child has access to their own record on the Google Classroom platform. The school believes in the usefulness of instrumental and vocal exams as both a marker for pupils' progress and a target, and children will be entered when the time is deemed right by the qualified peripatetic practitioner. Parents are equally advised that the exam system is not intended as a self sufficient treadmill and all teachers will want to move children sideways as well as relentlessly up the ladder. The fees for the academic year 2025/2026 is £24.50 per 30 minute lesson. Please note that the teacher is considered to be hired for one lesson per week and, whilst every reasonable attempt will be made to re-timetable lessons that the children may miss due to medical appointments, illness, fixtures etc. payment will still be expected if this is not possible. No reimbursement or rescheduling will take place for children withdrawn during term time for holidays and so forth. Parents are encouraged to communicate a week in advance with the peripatetic teacher for any circumstances in which they know a child will miss a lesson. Whilst payment for a missed lesson can be irritating, parents are also encouraged to take a long-term view. Most children will receive a great deal of counterbalancing 'free tuition' at various points in their school lives; for instance, during the run up to exams, before music competitions, and casually during break times.

2.3 **Safeguarding:** Recruitment and appointment of peripatetic music staff will be in accordance with the School's Recruitment Policy. All one-to-one lessons will be carried out on-site in suitable teaching spaces.

2.4 **Notice periods:** The first half-term of a new beginner is taken as a trial period and notice can be given in this initial half-term for lessons to cease at the end of that half-term. After this, a longer notice period is required in case of withdrawal to protect the teacher's income from sudden and unexpected fluctuations, and to enable the department to continue to offer tuition to all children. The notice periods run as follows:

Notice given on or before:	**Lessons terminate:**
Last day of first half of Autumn Term	Christmas Holidays
Last day of Autumn Term	February Half-Term

Last day of first half Spring Term	Easter Holidays
Last day of Spring Term	May Half-Term
Last day of first half Summer Term	Summer Holidays
Last day of Summer Term/Summer holiday	October Half-Term

2.5 Please note that you are still liable to pay the notice period, even if you opt not to take the lessons available to you. Failure to do so will likely jeopardise your child's eligibility for instrumental music lessons in future on any instrument. In the case of any dispute, the Headmaster's decision is final. Please also note that notice must be given **in writing** to the Director of Music, or the peripatetic teacher directly.

2.6 **Instrument Hire and Purchase:** The school has a limited number of instruments for hire: these are allocated on a first come basis. Normally we would expect a child to buy their own instrument after a few terms, both to enjoy playing and cherishing an instrument that they love, and to allow others to hire. Where school instruments are not available private purchase or rental will be necessary. The termly hire fees for school instruments for 2025/2026 are as follows:

a. Orchestral instruments except violins: £40.00
b. Violins: £25.00

2.7 It is advised that guidance is sought before purchasing any instrument for your child. Learning on a well-built and reliable instrument is crucial for your child's progress and teachers will be able to advise of appropriate purchases. Instruments should be regularly maintained and serviced, with advice and guidance sought from the Director of Music or peripatetic teacher.

2.8 Learning an instrument requires dedication, persistence and support, and parents are strongly encouraged to take an active role in this, particularly during holiday times where a regular twenty minutes daily practice will help to ensure progress is maintained (and money is wisely spent!). As in all spheres, children's enthusiasm can wax and wane, so parental support in seeing the 'longer term' view is essential. As a rule, practice should occur 'little and often' to keep concentration levels up and enjoyment present! If you require guidance with appropriate individual practice schedules, contact the peripatetic teacher or the Director of Music.

Author	Director of Music	**ISI Doc Code**	N/A
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