

## **Instrumental Music Policy**

Music Tuition is available on string, brass, woodwind instruments, and on piano and voice. The school does not currently teach percussion, organ, harp, keyboards or guitar.

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. Learning may take place before year 3 on a case by case basis. Early learning really works when parents prepare children for the commitment involved in learning an instrument and then organising and encouraging their music practice on a regular basis.

All children receiving instrumental and vocal tuition are encouraged to attend school orchestra and ensembles. Children are also encouraged to attend school choirs and participate in music concerts and services.

Lessons predominantly last 35 minutes (shorter for children below year 3) 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 near to the beginning of the term, and payment is expected by first Exeat. Lessons will be suspended after this date until payment is received and no reduction will be made for any lessons missed as a result in the interim period.

Tuition books and music will generally be billed to pupils' school accounts and prior permission will not be sought; likewise, the school believes in the usefulness of Associated Board Royal Schools of Music, Trinity and Guildhall instrumental and vocal examinations as both a marker for pupils' progress and a target. Children will be entered for examinations when the time is right as indicated by the instrumental or vocal teacher and the Director of Music. If this arrangement presents any difficulty, parents are encouraged to contact the Director of Music. 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.

Please note that the teacher is considered 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, family events etc, should this not be possible payment will still be expected. No reimbursement or rescheduling will take place for children withdrawn during term time for holidays and so forth. 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 'careers' during the run up to exams, before music competitions, and casually during break times.

Please also note that after the first half term's lessons a term's notice is required in case of withdrawal to protect the teacher's income from sudden and unexpected fluctuations, and to enable us to continue to offer tuition to all children. This means it must be received before half-term prior to the requested withdrawal.

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 to allow others to hire.

Where school instruments are not available private purchase or rental will be necessary.

Staff Responsible	Director of Music
Last reviewed	Spring 2016
Date of next review	Spring 2018