



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.

Overview

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.

Instrumental Lessons

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, 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).

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 by the first week of the term. 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. 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 generally be billed to pupils' school accounts and prior permission will not be sought; likewise, the school believes in the usefulness of ABRSM Music 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 fee for 2019/2020 is £20.90 per 30 minute lesson.

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 lessons due to medical appointments, illness 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 school lives; for instance, during the run up to exams, before music competitions, and casually during break times.

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.

Notice periods

The first half-term 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 the first half term's lessons, a longer notice period 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. 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 | Whitsun Half-Term (May) |
| Last day of first half Summer Term | Summer Holidays |
| Last day of Summer Term | October Half-Term |

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.

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 to allow others to hire. Where school instruments are not available private purchase or rental will be necessary.

The hire fees for school instruments for 2019/2020 are:

- Orchestral instruments except violins £49.20;
- Violins £25.90;

Parents are very strongly recommended not to buy instruments without consulting the music department. Every year children appear with internet or music shop 'bargains' which are of such poor quality that they will only hamper the child's progress. Learning an instrument requires persistence and support, and parents are strongly encouraged to take an active role in this, most 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 enthusiasms wax and wane, so parental support in seeing the 'longer term' view is essential.