



Led by Dorset Music Service

Instrumental Tuition

Frequently Asked Questions

What time will my child's music lessons take place?

Instrumental lessons take place at your child's school during the school day and normally last for 20 minutes. The time of each lesson is arranged by the school in conjunction with the instructor delivering the lesson. This will likely mean that your child has to miss part of a school lesson. Much research has been done on this, none of which has shown any detrimental effect on children's academic progress. Many experts believe that learning a musical instrument improves performance in other areas of the curriculum.

How many lessons will my child receive?

Lessons will be delivered for 30 weeks of the year (10 weeks per term) in line with Dorset Music Service Delivery Calendar which sets out the fixed tuition dates

What happens if my child is away from school and misses a music lesson?

Unfortunately, no refunds can be offered if your child misses a lesson for any reason including illness or school trips. In the case of exceptional circumstances, i.e. long-term illness, please contact the Dorset Music Service.

What happens if my child does not receive the guaranteed number of lessons per term?

At the end of each term, we gather registers to check attendance, and refund any lessons not provided by the instructor owing to illness

What happens if the school is closed for a Training Day, or my child is away on a school trip on the day of his/her music lesson?

The Dorset Music Service offers an instructor based on our fixed delivery timetable. If, owing to circumstances beyond our control, a lesson does not take place, then no refund can be given.

How often should my child practise their musical instrument?

Little and often is best, so aiming for at least 10 mins a day is ideal as regular practice is essential to making progress. In learning music your child will acquire a range of skills: technical, intellectual and creative. These skills will improve gradually over a period of time – but only with practice.

Will my child need any books or other equipment to help with their music lessons?

You will be expected to provide music as recommended by your instructor. Details of any books or resources should be written in communications books by the instructor. You may also be asked to purchase small items of consumable equipment, such as reeds, strings, drum sticks, cleaning materials, etc.

Will there be opportunities for my child to perform on his/her instrument at concerts?

All Dorset Music Service pupils are encouraged to take part, when appropriate, in concerts and assemblies at their own schools.

Will my child be able to take music examinations?

The graded examinations offered by ABRSM and other bodies, are nationally and internationally recognised and form part of the National Qualifications Framework. The decision to enter a pupil for an external examination lies with the pupil's instructor and is dependent on pupil progress and practice record. All fees for external examinations must be paid in advance by the parent/carer.

How is my child assessed and how will I know how much progress they are making?

Progress and attainment is communicated in several ways including;

- Annual Report to parents for school tuition
- Use of Communication Book / Practice Diary – these are issued free each year and are an important form of two-way communication

Will my child need a musical instrument to use?

Apart from drums, piano and keyboard lessons, an instrument will be required for lessons which you will be responsible for sourcing. Instruments are not included in our lesson cost. The Dorset Music Service do offer an instrument hire service.

How do I pay for the lessons?

You will receive an invoice via email. Payments need to be made online, prior to lessons starting. We are unable to take payment over the phone. Lessons will not start until payment has been received.

How do I cancel the lessons?

Any request to cancel lessons must be given in writing to the Dorset Music Service, and will come into effect at the end of that term. We do not refund lessons that have not been attended once notice has been given.