



Dear Parents

ARRANGEMENTS FOR KS2 INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS FROM SEPTEMBER 2025

We are in the process of formalising arrangements for instrumental lessons for the academic year 2025/26. All lessons are provided by Hampshire Music Service (HMS).

What instrument can my child learn?

We offer lessons on the following instruments:

- **Violin**
- **Cello**
- **Guitar**
- **Piano or Keyboard**
- **Brass** (*cornet, trumpet, tenor horn or trombone*)
- **Woodwind** (*flute, recorder, clarinet or saxophone*)
- **Percussion** (*drum kit, tuned & untuned percussion*)
- **Voice**

If your child is unsure which instrument to learn, please look at the following video which introduces some of these instruments, or speak with Mrs Postlethwaite who can advise further:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0Jc4sP0BEE>

What age does my child need to be to learn an instrument?

Instrumental lessons are offered to children in **KS2 (years 3-6)**. Current Year 2 children may therefore apply to receive lessons in September 2025 as a year 3. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer instrumental lessons to Infant/KS1 children.

When do instrumental lessons take place?

Pupils receive a 20-minute lesson each week. They are taught in pairs or small groups, organised at the teacher's discretion depending on the children's ability and prior experience. Instrumental lessons take place during the school day, between 11am and 3:30pm, and will be on the same day each week. Individual lesson times are rotated on a weekly basis and so your child's lesson time will change. It is your child's responsibility to have their instrument in school on the correct day and to get to their lesson on time. The school cannot be responsible for reminding children, or for delivering instruments to children who have forgotten them.

How many lessons will my child receive?

The school guarantees that all children will have the opportunity to attend a minimum of 30 lessons per year. In most cases pupils receive closer to 34 lessons on average across the year. Please be aware that instrumental teachers are entitled to one week a term planning and preparation time, where they will not be available to teach your child.

We understand that some lessons may unavoidably be missed due to school events. On occasions where a teacher is unavailable to teach, lessons will be rearranged where possible. Please note that the school cannot account for lessons missed due to a child's absence or lack of attendance. Where a child has not received their minimum quota of 30 lessons by the end of the academic year, this will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and parents may be reimbursed for these lessons at the end of the summer term.

What will my child need?

Parents are expected to provide an instrument and the relevant equipment for their child. The instrumental teacher will advise you on this matter.

Hampshire Music Service offer an option to hire an instrument at £29-39 per term. Your child's teacher can provide the relevant information to set this up. Alternatively please visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hampshiremusic/instrumenthire> to find out more. Please be aware that the school's insurance does not cover individual instruments, and the school cannot be responsible for any loss or accidental damage. It is therefore advisable to contact your own insurers to ensure adequate cover is in place for instruments whilst in transit and on school property.

All children will be provided with a practice diary, which facilitates communication between the instrumental teacher and home, and sets out what pupils should be practicing at home. In most cases, beginners are given an HMS 'I Play' book, but some pupils may be asked to purchase a music book to use in their lessons.

How much do instrumental lessons cost?

The cost for instrumental lessons is **£325 per year**.

The cost can be paid in full up front, or spread over 3 payments:

- £115 - this **must** be provided with your initial application
- £105 - due no later than 1st December 2025
- £105 – due no later than 1st March 2026.

Please note that we are only accepting online payments via the SCOpay system, listed under events as 'Music Lessons 2025-26'. You do have the option of paying the entire balance at the onset if you prefer. If the second and third payments are not received by the given dates, your child's music lessons will cease until payments are made.

Once a place is allocated, the fees are non-refundable, unless there are exceptional circumstances

The cost of instrumental lessons are heavily subsidised by Hampshire Music Hub through Arts Council funding. We are also able to further support pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Please contact Mrs Lane in the office if you need to discuss any of the above or have concerns over meeting these payments.

What is the commitment?

Learning an instrument requires determination, time and commitment; therefore we can only offer lessons to those who are **committed for at least a year**. We cannot accommodate late requests, as it is unfair to place new children joining mid-year into groups with children who have already built up their skills. The teachers' services are bought into our school for a year, and so the school is also obliged to meet the finances. Late applications or withdrawals from instrumental lessons are therefore not possible.

Children will be expected to practice regularly at home in order to make progress on their instrument – for a beginner learner the recommendation is 10-15 minutes 3-5 times a week.

Please note that due to the large number of children partaking in instrumental lessons and to allow everyone the opportunity to learn an instrument, we must limit requests to **one instrument only**.

What is the benefit of learning an instrument?

By attending weekly lessons, your child will learn the skills to play a musical instrument and develop their musical understanding. As children's skills progress, they will then be able to experience the joy of making music with others in groups and ensembles. The transferable skills of learning to play an instrument are numerous, such as improved memory, creativity, collaboration, ability to focus on tasks, and physical coordination. Music enhances children's emotional health and well-being, and learning an instrument is proven to support pupils in all other areas of their school-life.

When do I need to return my request for lessons?

If you would like your child to receive instrumental tuition in school, please return the following forms either to the school office, or by emailing/scanning the paperwork back to music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk no later than **Tuesday, 6th May 2025**:

- ✓ **Request Form**, stating preferred instrument
- ✓ **Shared Agreement**, signed by both parent/guardian and child

We have over a hundred instrumental lessons taking place each week in school and so considerable planning is required to buy in teaching services and to timetable this. It is therefore crucial that requests are in by the deadline so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Mrs Postlethwaite will contact you before the end of the summer term to confirm that your child has gained a place, and to pass on more specific information regarding lessons, instruments and music required for September 2025.

Children already receiving instrumental lessons in school will be given priority to continue their lessons. We will then do our utmost to cater for the remaining requests, however where places are limited, these are filled on a first come first serve basis.

If your child already has instrumental lessons at school and wishes to continue next year, an application must still be made and so PLEASE STILL FILL IN THE FORM.

We look forward to supporting your child on their musical journey!

Yours sincerely,

Y Postlethwaite

Mrs Yvonne Postlethwaite
Music Lead