

TERMS & CONDITIONS

for instrumental & vocal lessons

1. Lessons normally take place in school during the school day.
2. Teachers contact schools and parents/carers directly to inform them of the days of lessons, which normally start in the second or third week of term. Our fees are based on 10 lessons per term
3. Children learning piano or guitar must have their own instruments to practise at home.
4. Many other instruments can be [hired](#) from the service unless parents/carers choose to buy their own. See below for current hire costs. Please [contact](#) the service to arrange hire.
5. Violins, violas and 'cello pupils should be brought to the [Music Service Headquarters](#) to be measured for the right size instrument.
6. A reduction in fees of £91.00 per term, 50% reduction in instrument hire may be available if the child or their parents or carers receive certain benefits.
7. If a child is going to be absent from school on the day of their instrumental or vocal lesson - the teacher **requires three weeks written notice**. The teacher will then make up the missed lesson, or parents/carers will be credited. If three weeks notice is not given (for example in the case of illness) the teacher will make every effort to make up the lesson, but is not obliged to. School trips and exams can cause problems, please inform us of any likely clashes with lessons.
8. Every child will receive a Pupil Progress Book. This is for messages between parents/carers and the teacher. It also helps parents/carers to check on attendance and practice – this is the key to communicating with teachers.
9. Once lessons have started, parents/carers will be invoiced by the end of term for the next term's series of 10 lessons. It is important that payment that your invoice is settled as soon as possible as this helps with our planning. We also have long waiting lists.

Instrument	Price per term as of September 2023 (prices in brackets on proof of income support)
Violin/Viola/Sax	£23.00 (£11.50)
Cello	£25.00 (£12.50)
Clarinet, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba & Double Bass.	£35.00 (£17.50)
Drum-kits, Guitar & Keyboard	Not available for hire but available for through HMS via Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Where and when are the lessons?

A. Instrumental teachers liaise with schools over precise days and times of lessons. Pupils should ask at school when and where their lessons will be. Many schools have notice boards where schedules of lessons are displayed.

Q. How much practice is needed?

A. Progress depends more on frequent and regular practice rather than length of practice, especially in the early stages. 5 practice sessions of 10-15 minutes each week will achieve a lot more than 2 of 30 minutes. The physical and mental demands are considerable, particularly for younger children.

Q. How can a parent / carer who feels they have no musical training help?

A. Encouragement and moral support are vital. Often your mere presence while practising and positive comments will be invaluable. Maintain contact with the teacher by means of the Pupil Progress Book. Always try to attend any musical activity your child takes part in.

Q. What do I do if something goes wrong with the instrument?

A. Most things that go wrong, even if apparently disastrous are, in fact, relatively minor. [Contact the Music Service](#) who will be able to advise, repair or replace. However, it is important that children understand instruments are delicate and must be handled with care and respect at all times.

Q. How do I know if my child is making progress?

A. Your teacher will complete an assessment page in the Pupil Progress Book at the end of each term. The teacher will also advise if it is worthwhile entering your child for a graded music exam.

Q. Can we receive a longer lesson?

A. Students normally start on a 30 shared lesson (30 minutes in a pair, or possibly 15 minutes on their own if the teacher judges this to be better or no child to share with). We also offer a 20 and 30-minute individual lesson. [Contact the Music Service](#) office if you wish to change the lesson length.

Q. Can a child learn more than one instrument?

A. This very much depends on the time available to practise. It is also a good idea to wait until the first instrument is sufficiently established before starting a second one.

Q. What groups can my child join?

A. Music making is the main point of learning an instrument and your child should be encouraged to join in musical activities as soon as is practicable. Some schools have bands and orchestras and your child should certainly join them. Haringey Music Service also runs regular bands and orchestras at various levels. Please see our website for more details of the [Haringey Young Musicians programme](#). Occasional short courses are also available.

Q. What if I have a question not listed here?

A. When in doubt, contact the [Music Service office](#). We will either deal with your query or, if appropriate, direct you to the teacher at school.

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