



Instrumental tuition pack

2017-18



Instrumental agreement for parents

 *If you wish your child to enrol in instrumental tuition at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, please read the enclosed details and return the form to the School Office.*

 *Please ensure the first term's payment is enclosed with the agreement form.*



Please return by 26th May, 2017



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

May 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS 2017-2018

All children in Years 3 to 6 are offered the opportunity, at parental cost, to learn an instrument. Please find the booklet outlining details for next year's tuition.

Our Year 2 children have been exploring instruments during their music lessons and have been fortunate to have heard and looked at many different instruments. In order for the children to further explore the instruments if they wish and to give parents and carers the opportunity to ask any questions, **I will be in the Music Room on Friday 19th May from 3:30-4:15pm with a selection of instruments to try.** No booking is required, please sign in at the school office if you wish to attend. (Pupils from across KS2 are welcome if they would like to consider learning a new instrument).

All forms and payments need to be at the School Office by Friday 27th May in order for the school to book instrumental teachers for next year.

Please feel free to contact me through the school office if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Wilson
Music Subject Leader

Learning how to play a musical instrument can be a wonderful experience and we are pleased to offer all pupils in Years 3 to 6, the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

We work closely with our instrumental teachers in order to provide high quality instrumental teaching at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School. All teachers have valid DBS clearances for working with children and young people.

We are currently able to offer tuition in:

Woodwind: Clarinet, flute & saxophone (for Y5&6 pupils progressing from clarinet or flute)

Brass: Trumpet, cornet, trombone,

Guitar: Acoustic, electric & ukulele

Percussion: Drum kit

Strings: Violin

Keyboard

There are many positives to learning to play an instrument not only for the joy it brings but researchers have also found that it can improve and strengthen cognitive processing and memory skills.

Although this is an added cost for parents, we endeavour to keep the costs as low as possible and can offer short term loans of an instrument where needed for a small fee. (Please contact the school to enquire about the availability of this).

Sign up and payment details

Please sign and return this agreement by **Friday 26th May 2017** to the School Office together with payment for the Autumn term 2017.

Term	Fee due	Final payment date
Autumn Term	£55	Friday 26 th May 2017
Spring Term	£55	Friday 20 th October 2017
Summer Term	£55	Friday 9 th February 2018

Please note that reminders for the Spring and Summer Term payments will be emailed out to parents. If you wish to cancel tuition during the school year, please give at least a half term's notice in writing.

Lesson costs

£5.50 per half hour lesson. Fees are charged at £55 per term.

(Group size will vary according to take up and ability but aims to be no more than 4 in a group).

Number of lessons

Students will receive **30 lessons** per year.

Payment methods

Please pay the first instalment of £55 by cheque. Cheques should be made payable to '**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School**'.

Once a place has been secured, further payments can be made through the school's online Scopay system. Please contact the office if you require a pupil link code for this.

Making the most of instrumental lessons

Ideally we would like any children wishing to learn an instrument to commit to a year's worth of tuition as we believe that a significant amount of time is needed to master the basics of any instrument.

By learning an instrument, students should be aware that they should practice regularly and demonstrate determination and resilience in order to make progress but with this comes many rewards. If you have any concerns regarding your child's instrumental tuition, please contact the Music Subject Leader so that any problems can be dealt with promptly.

Performance opportunities: We aim to provide many opportunities for students learning an instrument to play with others and have many performances already planned for the academic year 2017-18 in addition to the extra-curricular clubs that children might like to attend. By playing with others, students develop valuable ensemble and musicianship skills as well as enhancing their enjoyment of the instrument.

Attendance: Children are encouraged to check the instrumental lessons notice board on the morning of their lesson and arrive promptly to their lesson with their instrument and music. Whilst we will endeavour to re-arrange lessons which take place on trip days, this is not always possible. We regret that lessons missed due to absence from school and school activities cannot be made up at a later date.

Equipment: Children will need to have access to their own instrument which should be brought in for lessons. (This is not necessary for keyboard or drum kit lessons). If you would like advice or help sourcing an instrument, please contact the school.

Important extras

Lessons generally happen in school time on a rotated timetable within the day to minimise the impact on missed curriculum time.

Fees are due by the dates outlined at the start of the agreement. E-mail reminders will be sent out 2 weeks in advance.

No refunds can be given if your child is absent, on a school trip or have forgotten their instrument. It is a student's responsibility to speak to their instrumental teacher if they need to swap time due to an exam or suchlike.

If you wish to cancel lessons, written notice of at least half a term is required. To be given in to the School Office.

It may be necessary to cancel a lesson at short notice on occasion. Students are encouraged to check the instrumental board on the morning of their lesson to ensure that minimal lesson time is missed. Some teachers are able to make up missed lessons but this is not always possible if the teacher is employed through Dorset Music Service.

If your child is entered into an exam, please note that the school is unable to provide a pianist for this. Please speak to your child's instrumental teacher.



Music Home-School Agreement 2017-18

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE TOGETHER
WITH THE FIRST TERM'S PAYMENT.**

Cheques should be made payable to '**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School**'

School statement:

- The school will make every effort to provide your child with high quality instrumental tuition provided by experienced musicians and teachers. We will provide opportunities for your child to play and perform with others in order to further develop their performance and musical skills.
- If for any reason you believe we fail to do this, please contact the Music Subject Leader via the school office.

We ask you as parent / carers to agree to the following:

- That pupils pledge a commitment to one year of lessons. (This is a guideline)
- Encourage my child to practice their instrument regularly and bring their instrument and music to every lesson and / or ensemble rehearsal.
- Encourage my child to participate in school music groups / ensembles / performances and become fully involved in the musical life of the school.
- Pay fees promptly for lessons when receiving an e-mail reminder.
- Give the school at least half a term's notice of cancellation.

I wish my child to learn: _____

Please tick as appropriate. My child:

Is a beginner

☐

Has already been having lessons

☐☐

I have enclosed the first terms payment of £55

Name of child.....

Class.....

Signed.....

Date.....