



A Parent's Guide to Instrument Lessons

Why should I consider instrument lessons for my child?

There are a wide range of benefits to learning a musical instrument, some are more obvious, and some are surprising!

Learning a musical instrument can:

- Improve memory and concentration through focused activity
- Benefits brain development and promotes neural activity
- Improve gross and fine motor skills
- Benefit mental health through the enjoyment of music
- Encourages making music with others, developing social skills and friendships
- Builds lifelong skills of resilience, practice and commitment
- Develops the ability to respond to feedback
- Develops an understanding of a new language
- Provides a hobby or interest beyond a screen which may last a lifetime
- Provide a wider education in the Arts and culture

What instruments can my child learn in school?

At Walkwood, we partner with Pro Music Ltd and our own Guitar teacher, Mr Nicholson, to provide high quality expert tuition in a range of instruments.

Pro Music Ltd provide tuition for Piano, Violin, Drum Kit, Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone) and vocals.

Mr Nicholson provides guitar tuition for all styles of Guitar and a range of musical styles.

As a school we will always look into the viability of offering other instrument choices should there be the required demand.

What are the costs of learning an instrument?

Group Lessons

Group lessons of 20 mins for 2-3 students are charged at £8.50 per lesson.

This type of lesson is ideal of beginners and those in the early stages of learning.

Individual Lessons

Individual lessons for 20 minutes are charged at £14 per lesson.

This type of lesson is ideal for students at an intermediate or higher standard of playing.

How do I pay for my child's lessons?

Lessons with Pro Music Tuition are a contract between the parent/carer and Pro Music Tuition. Fees are payable half termly in advance via BACS directly to Pro Music Tuition.

Lessons with Mr Nicholson are payable to Walkwood Church of England Middle School via half termly invoice paid through Parent Pay.

Notice of Cancellation

All lessons require 4 weeks notice to cancel lessons. Failure to provide sufficient notice will result in a charge for the lessons missed during the notice period.

Can I hire an instrument?

Students are required to have their own instrument for their lesson and practice at home. We find that many of our students choose to do this when they have been learning for a short amount of time.

Students bring their instrument in to school on the day of their lesson and store it our practice rooms. The exception to this is for drum kit and piano lessons where students use the instruments in school for their lessons.

Pro Music Tuition may be able to assist with the temporary hire or purchase of instruments at a reasonable price. Please liaise with your child's teacher about this directly.

Timetables and Groupings

We work closely with Pro Music Tuition and Mr Nicholson to find the day and time that is most suitable for the students of Walkwood Church of England Middle School.

The Music Department will create a timetable based on a range of factors often balancing the needs of multiple students. While we do our best to avoid times such as break, lunch and certain lessons for practical reasons, this is not always possible. However, we will do our best to make this as fair or as manageable as possible.

Our students are given a constant day and time for their lesson. We find that this enables students to remember the day and time of their lesson and improves attendance.

Timetables are emailed home and are on display in the Music Room. A reminder of the day of lessons is provided via our Daily Notices along with any small amendments which need to be made from time to time.

Missed Lessons and Absence

We have a range of strategies for our instrument teachers to use in school to try to contact a student who may be late or have forgotten their lesson. However, teachers time must be prioritised for teaching and their timetables do not allow time for them to collect students from lessons. We aim to limit these instances by provided timetable information in a range of ways and request support from parents/carers in reminding students regularly of their day and lesson time.

It is sometimes necessary to cancel lessons due to circumstances such as staff illness or school closure. These lessons will be made up over the course of the term.

How does my child leave their normal timetabled lesson?

Students should politely let their class teacher know that they will need to leave their lesson and the time. All classrooms have clocks although some lessons take place during break or lunch. It is therefore beneficial if you can support your child in learning to tell the time.

Lessons are indicated to teaching staff by way of a reminder at the top of our Arbor registers. This means that students no longer require a pass to leave lessons.

It is not expected that our teachers go to collect students for their lessons as this is not a practical use of their time.

How much should my child practice?

Practice is essential to the learning of a musical instrument. Students who practice will make more progress over a period of time than those who do not. Our instrument teachers recommended 10-15 minutes each day or at least every other day. Practice is essential to your child making progress on their instrument.

How can I communicate with my child's instrument teacher?

Pro Music Tuition will communicate with you regularly about your child's progress and their next steps. This may include written feedback, performance assessments and recommendations for future learning.

Mr Nicholson can be contacted directly on request.

Can my child take graded examinations?

Yes! While taking graded music exams is not the only goal of learning a musical instrument, for some students it provides validation of their achievements. Your child's instrument teacher will discuss with your child whether they are ready for this step. Graded exams are available with a range of examination boards, at different times of the year and are an additional cost. There are also a range of formats to tailor the taking of a graded examination to the individual. Your child's teacher can advise on the process for booking a graded examination with the appropriate exam board for your child.

Further Information

If you require further information or have a question that has not been answered by this presentation, please do get in touch.

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