

St. Christopher's The Hall - Individual Music lessons

At St. Christopher's The Hall, we firmly believe in the value of our pupils having the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, this enhances not only their musical education but has a wider positive impact in terms of their concentration, confidence, wellbeing and academic growth. Individual music lessons are therefore an integral and important part of the education we provide.

Instruments and Teachers

- **Piano** - Mrs. Ashcroft, Mrs. Lovett, Mrs Paulides
- **Guitar** - Mr. Birch
- **Violin** - Mrs. Rayner

Usually, the earliest starting point for these instruments is Year 2. Lessons are 20 minutes initially increasing to 30 on the teacher's advice and in agreement with parents, as the pupil progresses.

- **Drums** - Mr. Blundell - Year 3 and above, 20 minute lessons.
- **Flute** - Mrs. Webb - Year 3 and above, 20 minute lessons initially.
- **Oboe** - Mrs. Lovett - Year 4 and above. 20 minute lessons initially.
- **Clarinet and Saxophone** - Mr. Christou - Year 3 and above, 30 minute lessons.
- **Trumpet/Cornet/Trombone/French Horn** - Mr. Rainsford - Year 3 or 4 as assessed by teacher, 20 minute lessons initially.
- **Singing** - Mrs. Paulides. Year 3 and above. 20 minute lessons initially rising to 30 minutes once the pupil is preparing for exams.

Costs (2024-2025)

- **£180** for a ten week term of 20 minute lessons **£260** for 30 minute lessons.
- Most instruments can be started on 20 minute lessons with the expectation to increase to half an hour as the child progresses. Teachers may offer to see a pupil for an initial assessment and 'taster' lesson before requiring a commitment to lessons.
- No notice is required if a pupil decides to stop during their first term of lessons; after this a full term's notice is required. This must be sent by email to the individual Music Teacher and Director of Music by the first day of term in order to stop lessons at the end of that term.
- Lessons are invoiced directly to parents by the individual music teacher at the start of each term, on the basis of 10 lessons per term. If more than 10 are given the extra will be charged on the following term's invoice; we aim for 30 lessons across the academic year but this may work out to 12 in the Autumn Term and 9 in the Spring and Summer. If fewer lessons are given than charged, then these will be credited on the following term's invoice. If more than 30 are likely to be given across the academic year, the teacher will ask your permission to exceed this number.
- Teachers keep their own register of lessons in case of query

Arranging lessons:

Please email Mrs. Gay, Director of Music, as the first point of contact for arranging lessons and she will put you in touch with the relevant teacher via email.

musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

Timetabling of lessons

- Individual music lessons take place during the school day and timetables are organised by the Visiting Music Teachers, with the support of the Director of Music and the class teachers.
- Teachers collect and return Pre-Prep children to their classrooms, whilst Prep School children are expected to attend their music lesson independently.
- Priority of timing avoiding core subjects and exam preparation is given to Year 6 in the Autumn Term and Year 5 in the Spring and Summer terms.
- We arrange timetables in order to have the minimum impact on pupils' academic lessons; in some cases the Visiting Music Teacher may organise a rotating timetable.

Missed lessons

Missed lessons have to be made up by the music teacher ONLY in cases of:

- The music teacher's absence
- Formal in-school examinations
- Planned school trips which are on the school calendar and involve a whole class/Year group

Whilst our Visiting Music Teachers are always happy to be flexible, there can be no guarantee of replacement lessons for any reason other than the above. If your child has a planned absence or selective school sporting fixture on the day of their lesson, please let the Visiting Music Teacher know with as much notice as possible and they may be able to adjust timetables accordingly at their discretion. We understand that pupils may be out at matches on their regular games afternoons and we avoid timetabling music lessons during these times.

Practising and performing Students will need to practise regularly – at least three times a week as a minimum to make progress; they will need their own instrument to practise on. The school has a selection of violins, woodwind and brass instruments available for short-term hire through the SCA. Each pupil is issued with a notebook where the work they should aim to do each week is set by their teacher. Regular notes and emails between teacher and parent are encouraged, to ensure communication is effective. A written report is sent home at the end of the Summer Term. There are many performance opportunities in class music lessons and assemblies, and we have a range of concerts at school in which your child will be encouraged to take part. The Orchestra welcomes pupils who have passed Grade 1 in an Orchestral instrument.

Instruments in school If your child brings a musical instrument to school, we advise you to make sure that the instrument is fully insured, with the child's name, address and telephone number written inside the instrument case and the name clearly visible on the outside.

Books and accessories It is the responsibility of parents to obtain any music/accessories requested by the pupil's music teacher. The teachers will happily offer advice on where to buy them from. Music teachers can order music for their pupils through the school and in this case the books will be charged on the school's termly invoice.

Music Exams Music exams are a useful goal and means of assessment, giving a sense of achievement. Music Teachers will encourage children to work towards exams at appropriate stages with the agreement of the pupil and parents, however if this is not desired, there are plenty of performance opportunities in school during class, assembly and concerts which children will be encouraged to take up. We host a termly music exam day with an ABRSM Examiner for our pupils.

Our full policy regarding individual music lessons can be found [here](#)