

Updated: March 2022

Review: March 2025



Cornerstone Academy Trust

Instrumental Music lessons Policy

This policy seeks to ensure that children have the opportunity to fully participate in instrumental lessons. Children are supported in selecting the appropriate instrument that they wish to learn and children and parents are aware of the commitment that learning an instrument requires.

Responsibility for the music service lies with the Headteacher. The organisation and liaising with teachers and parents with regards to timetabling is the responsibility of the Assistant Headteacher.

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All music teachers that are employed at the school are qualified, experienced and DBS checked. Below is a list of our current music teachers with email addresses

- 1) Piano – Ruth Pitts rpitts@bcps.org.uk
- 2) Guitar – Andrew Crawford acrawford@bcps.org.uk
- 3) Drums – Simon Hodgkiss shodgkiss@bcps.org.uk
- 4) Singing – Ruth Toze rtoze@bcps.org.uk
- 5) Brass – Adrian Nutthal anutthal@bcps.org.uk

Instrumental lessons take place throughout the school year off site at a dedicated music room at the Victory Hall. The lessons occur throughout the day including at break times and after school. Parental wishes as to the timing of these lessons are considered when organising the timetables, although not guaranteed.

If your child does not have their own instrument, you may be able to hire one through Devon Music Service. Details on request from the school should you wish to find out more information.

Fees

Instrumental lessons cost:

£14 for individual lessons

£8 for paired lessons

£5 for group lessons of 3

We endeavour to group the children according to ability and the requests of parents.

Recommendation will be made throughout the year as to the most appropriate level of tuition, especially as the children improve. Lessons are paid for in advance and there are no refunds if a child decides not to continue for the remainder of the term.

Lesson Content

Each instrumental lesson consists of elements of reading and following written music, discussion of theory and understanding the language of music, as well as playing the instrument both individually and with the teacher or other pupil. Teachers help the children to understand how posture, breathing and control of their body can help both their health and their progress with their instrument. Each lesson lasts for 25minutes.

Attendance

If a lesson is missed due to a teacher being unable to provide the lesson, say for ill health reasons, then they would endeavour to make up the missed lesson at another time or there would be a refund for the missed lesson. If a lesson is missed due to a school trip / event, then we would notify the music

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teachers in advance and the lesson would be either re-scheduled or refunded. However, if a lesson is missed due to your child being away and the lesson cannot be re-scheduled then the money is non-refundable. Each music lesson is 25 minutes with 5 minutes either side to collect and walk the children back and forth from the music room.

Monitoring progress

The email addresses of the music teachers are published to parents and contact is encouraged. The children have a music record book which is completed after each lesson to keep parents informed of progress. A formal report is sent to parents at the end of the year. Lessons are observed by members of the senior leadership team throughout the year to ensure the quality and consistency of lessons is maintained. The children are expected to practise throughout the time they take lessons and progress can be impeded if this doesn't happen. As places are limited within the music service it may be advised to a parent that their child's place will be given to another student should they not be making any progress.

Safeguarding

As employees of the school the music teachers follow and adhere to the safeguarding policy. We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

Complaints

If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the music service, please contact the Leadership of the school. Further details can be found in our complaints procedure.

Behaviour

Behaviour expectations are the same for the children both on and off site, including at the Music room. Further details of acceptable behaviour can be found in the school policy (available online).