

# West Country School Music

Information Sheet (September 2022)



## Welcome to West Country School Music

West Country School Music provides instrumental music lessons in your school. Usually these are for children in Year 3 upwards and the instruments available to learn are listed below. Our teachers are selected for their instrument knowledge and suitability to work with primary school children. We aim to work with you and your school to increase the musical opportunities here.

Please see our website (address at the bottom of this page) for much more information about our lessons and the general benefits of learning to play an instrument.

We look forward to helping your child begin learning to play a musical instrument and create their own music.

## Why learn to play an instrument?

Learning to play a musical instrument stimulates and helps co-ordinate thinking and physical action and, of course, is great fun and very satisfying. Playing also develops confidence, concentration and team skills.

There is increasing evidence to show that the brain functions needed for maths and literacy are enhanced by learning to play a musical instrument and that the beneficial effects of this are greater the longer a child learns for. Learning to play a musical instrument is good for the brain in later life too!

## What instruments are available to learn here?

Our teachers teach Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Cornet/Trumpet, Trombone, Guitar, Keyboard, Recorder. (Violin is also available in some schools). We will try to find the best instrument for your child, not our favourite. Many instruments are available in 'mini' versions to accommodate smaller learners.

## Lessons

We have found that children make best progress if they are at least 7 years old when starting. Lessons are usually given during the school day as agreed with your Head Teacher.

Children receive individual attention within a small group (usually 2 or 3 pupils) for 20 minutes ten times a term (usually 5 lessons before half term and 5 after). Different instruments may be present in a group. Lessons include music theory, aural training, instrument care, group work and general music skills as well as instrument technique.

Progress is carefully monitored and is recorded in the tutor book. Formal exams are also available when your child attains key levels.

## Covid-19

Please see our Risk Assessment on our website. We are working with schools and the latest government guidance to make music lessons Covid-safe.

## Lesson price

£83 per term (10 lessons per term). 1:1 lessons are also sometimes available.

## Instruments: Hire or buy?

We can help with hire or purchase of instruments. If you are not ready to buy an instrument we have most instruments available to hire. Please phone to ask if we have what you need. Hire fees are currently £30 per term (£18 per half term) for most full sized wind instruments and keyboard (£37 for Alto saxophone). The following holiday is included. Jflute, cclarinet, small trombones, violin and guitar are available at £18 per term.

We will also search for the best value student instruments for you to purchase, if required (wind, keyboard or guitar) so that you don't have to.

## Music and consumables

The music and other items (e.g. Reeds etc.) your child needs, whether as a beginner or as they progress, are available to purchase from our office.

## Any questions?

Please phone our office on 07740 117227 to ask any questions you may have, register your child for lessons or to purchase or hire an instrument. Office hours are 8 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday.

† AIPS (Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme) also available through most schools (parents pay no VAT on the Instrument).

**West Country School Music**

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