

Pupil Handbook

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Instrumental/Vocal Music Tuition

Barnsley Music Service is the lead organisation of Barnsley Music Education Hub. The council service offers instrumental/vocal tuition and musical ensemble opportunities in schools throughout the borough and at Music Centre.

What Can I Play ?

Strings: violin, viola, 'cello, double bass, guitar (acoustic, electric, bass), ukulele

Woodwind: flute, recorder, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone

Brass: trumpet, cornet, flugel horn, tenor horn, french horn, baritone, euphonium, trombone, tuba

Percussion: snare drum, kit, timpani, tuned, world percussion

Keyboards: electric keyboard, piano

Vocals: voice

Lessons in Schools

Lessons are normally given to small groups of pupils for periods of between 20 - 30 minutes. More advanced pupils may opt for individual lessons in schools or at Music Centre for an additional charge.

Pupils will normally be withdrawn from their class lessons to allow them to attend instrumental music lessons. Lessons in secondary schools will (where possible) be rotated so that pupils will not miss the same lesson each week. Pupils will receive a minimum of 30 lessons per year. Priority for lunch or break time lessons will normally be given to pupils approaching KS4/5 examinations.

Schools normally charge for instrumental music lessons and instrument hire. The rate of charge is decided by the individual school so that they can retrieve their cost. Pupils who receive free school meals are eligible for a group lesson at a third of the normal charge with instrument hire free.

On arrival at a lesson, it is important that pupils knock and enter the room and not wait outside the door. Occasionally there may be need for physical contact with pupils, such as string players having their wrist position moved if causing a technical issue etc. Such contact will be kept to a minimum and follow safeguarding guidelines, but if this is unacceptable to parents/carers, the music tutor should be informed before tuition begins. If breathing exercises are required for wind players, the tutor will again be mindful of safeguarding guidelines and always act appropriately.

Should your child have a medical condition or any special educational needs or disabilities that you feel as though the music tutor should be aware of, please inform the them as early as possible. All information will be kept confidential.

Instrumental music tutors prepare annual reports for parents/carers and schools. These are distributed in June each year with the opportunity for a follow up if required.

Thursday

Violin Lessons

Cello Lessons

Percussion Lessons

Barnsley Percussion Ensemble

Barnsley Junior Guitar Ensemble

Friday

Brass Lessons

Violin Lessons

Voice Lessons

Cello Lessons

Oakwell Strings

Stainborough Strings

Wentworth Strings

Evening Activities Barnsley Music Service

Monday

Woodwind Lessons
Brass Lessons
Theory Class
Civic Fusion
Barnsley Town Concert Band

Tuesday

Woodwind Lessons
Brass Lessons
Cello Lessons
Penistone Junior Band
Barnsley Intermediate Band

Wednesday

Brass Lessons
Woodwind Lessons
Piano/Keyboard Lessons
Guitar Lessons
Barnsley Guitar Ensemble
Barnsley Junior Band
Barnsley Metropolitan Band

Lessons at Barnsley Music Centre

Lessons at Music Centre can normally be arranged for more advanced pupils. These will generally take place in the early evening and are given to individuals (or to small groups if arranged by parents). Please contact music centre directly for up to date lesson costs.

Instrument Provision

Barnsley Music Service has a limited supply of string, woodwind, percussion and brass instruments available for hire. The provision of strings, reeds, rosin, valve oil etc are normally the responsibility of the parent/carer. Instruments are maintained by the music service but damage, however caused, is the responsibility of the parent/carer, therefore it is suggested that instruments are added to your house insurance. Instruments should always be cared for according to the instructions given in lessons by the music tutor.

Instrument Purchase

If instruments are used in schools on a weekly basis, it may be possible to purchase the instrument through the school, saving educational discount and VAT. Savings from 25% - 50% can be made. Some retailers lease or hire instruments. Contact your choice of music shop or music centre for more information. If pupils are making good progress and performing at a high level, parents/carers are asked to consider the purchasing an instrument of their own. Parents/carers are strongly advised not to purchase a musical instrument unless they have specialist knowledge or without seeking advice from an expert. Bargain prices do not always represent good value.

Where Can I Play ?

Pupils will normally make much faster progress and have much more fun playing their instrument if they join a band, orchestra or other ensemble. We therefore strongly advise all pupils to join one of our performance groups. A wide range of orchestras, bands and ensembles are organised at Music Centre and satellite groups operate from various schools. The ensembles cater for beginners to advanced ability. Young musicians will be invited by their teacher to participate in these ensembles when they reach the appropriate standard.

Performance opportunities are given for the ensembles to play locally, regionally and nationally. Some groups undertake concert tours and residential courses both within the UK and abroad.

The music service and music hub partners regularly organise inspiring master-classes and workshop opportunities.

Many schools also offer ensemble opportunities to support their pupils. Students are encouraged to support these activities.

Tutor Books and Sheet Music

Pupils are expected to purchase their own tutor books and sheet music. Music tutors will give advice on what materials are needed and where to purchase them.

Requirements of Pupils

In the early stages pupils need to practice for at least 15 minutes every day but as pupils progress they may wish to increase this. Progress made will normally reflect the practice done. Pupils need to attend every lesson on time and with their instrument in good working order, along with their tutor book and sheet music. Instruments should be looked after in accordance with the music teacher. Never try to carry out what may appear to be a simple repair to an instrument at home without specialist knowledge (eg removing a stuck mouthpiece).

Examinations

Examinations are organised at Music Centre for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), Music Medals (ABRSM), Trinity and Rock School. Barnsley Music Service offers excellent exam facilities with a warm up room some distance away from the examination room. Barnsley Music Service will also try to provide an accompanist for an additional small charge. Parents / pupils may wish to organise their own accompaniment if they would prefer. Exams normally take place during March, June and December. Parents are asked to keep the exam periods free from other commitments as these are public examinations and times cannot normally be changed. Examination fees and the provision of the relevant sheet music remains the responsibility of parents. Music exams are now placed on the National Qualifications Framework, with grade 1-3 being level 1 (equivalent to GCSE grades D & E), grade 4-5 level 2 (equivalent to GCSE A* - C) and grade 6-8 level 3 (equivalent to A level) and worth UCAS points. Instrumental music teachers will normally assist with the development of performances for GCSE and A level practical exams.

Frequency of Lessons

Lessons will not take place every week of the school year. This allows staff to complete their other duties, including professional development, playing in the live music for schools programme, accompanying pupils taking exams and of course any illness. Teachers should be timetabled into schools for 34 or 35 weeks each year, with pupils receiving a minimum of 30 lessons. In circumstances where this is not possible, refunds may be offered. No refunds will be given if the instrumental tutor is available to teach and the lesson has been cancelled by the school or if the pupil fails to attend at the correct time. Pupils and schools will be informed by the tutor of any planned lesson cancellations and schools will be notified in the case of illness. We now also have the technology to connect with pupils online in cases of isolation periods.

Our Service to You

Our aim is provide pupils in Barnsley with access to a high quality instrumental music service. Delivery of the service will be given by a staff of dedicated, committed and professional music tutors. Pupils will be given the opportunity to develop enjoyable creative and performance skills which will in turn assist them with co-ordination, problem solving and memory development.

The young musicians will be encouraged to join ensembles that give them the opportunity for social interaction and experience team working, thus developing their self discipline, self worth and self esteem.

Should you have any suggestion for improvements or additions to our instrumental music services please contact:

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Regeneration & Culture
Place**

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