



Instrumental / Vocal lessons

Instrumental and vocal lessons are available on a wide range of instruments. Here is some information about how these lessons operate at St. Edward's. Should you wish to start learning an instrument then please contact one of the music staff.

1. Charging

Extra-curricular music lessons are charged separately, directly from the teacher. Lessons are currently £150 per term for ten half-hour lessons. The instrument hire fee (if appropriate) is £35– charged in advance on the school bill.

2. Starting Lessons

Timetables for lessons are posted in the music corridor outside room 1. Lessons work on a rotation system, rotating through the academic timetable – where possible lesson times are fixed for older pupils. Pupils should check their lesson times each week.

3. Missing School Lessons

If your extra-curricular music lesson means that you will miss an academic lesson, it is important that you ask your academic teacher's permission for you to attend your music lesson at least 24 hours in advance. If there are any problems with this then it should be reported to the Director of Music immediately so that a solution can be found.

4. Practice

You should practice your instrument regularly, otherwise progress (and enjoyment) will be very limited. A little practice often is far better than a long panic-practice the day before your lesson. Ask your teacher how much you should be doing.

5. Care of your Instrument

Please make sure that your instrument case is clearly marked with your name and that you make a note of the instrument's serial number. All musical instruments are valuable and should be treated with care. If you are hiring a school instrument, please treat it as though it were your own. *We strongly recommend that all instruments (school or own) should be insured against loss or damage.*

6. Music Groups

There are various music groups that you can join and you will be made aware of these if they are deemed to be appropriate for you. Membership of at least one of the music groups is required.



7. **Music Exams**

After you have been learning for a while, your teacher may suggest that you take a music exam (this is an extra charge). This decision is between you, your parents and your teacher. Exams are not compulsory but they do give you an incentive to practice.

8. **Music Theory**

If you would like to attend Theory classes, these are offered at an extra charge and there is usually one class running each week. If you want to take grade 6, 7 or 8 practical examination, you must have passed Grade 5 theory.

9. **Reports**

Reports are written by visiting music teachers.

10. **What happens if my teacher is away?**

The fee for instrumental lessons covers 10 lessons per term (30 during the year). As there are more than 30 teaching weeks in the school year, there will be a few weeks when you don't receive an instrumental lesson. Your teacher will probably try to give 12 or 13 lessons in the Autumn Term (as it is the longest) and then 9 lessons in the Spring and Summer Terms. If for any reason you have not had the full 30 lessons (and this is very rare!), a refund will be made or you will be credited for a lesson the following term.

11. **What happens if I am away?**

If you are absent from a lesson due to illness, your teacher will try to make up the lesson but this is not always possible and cannot be guaranteed. If you forget to go to your lesson, it will not be made up. If you forget your music or your instrument, you should still go to your lesson. Try to see your teacher as soon as possible in the morning, as spare instruments or music can sometimes be tracked down!

12. **Stopping lessons**

If you wish to stop lessons, your parents should confirm this in writing to the Director of Music with at least half a term before the stopping date.

13. **And finally...**

Remember that learning a musical instrument should be fun. If you do have any queries, see one of the music staff. Good luck.