



'Where excellence is a habit'

Music at St Aidan's

@SACA_Music

Instrumental Tuition Policy

Rationale

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.

Music, and especially the playing of musical instruments, has been scientifically proven to deepen children's development. This is especially true of brain development of young people where, whilst scanning the brains of subjects, it was found to actually improve aspects of cognitive development such as memory and lateral thinking. Playing a musical instrument also engages students in many other ways including social interaction development, communication skills, motivation to achieve short term goals, self-reliance, resilience, self-discipline, self-confidence, determination to succeed and many other cross-curricular themes such as problem solving, fine motor skill development and spatial awareness. However, helpful though all this is, I personally believe that the one overriding pleasure in learning an instrument is the enjoyment it brings to youngsters' lives and, through playing, engenders a sense of wellbeing and belonging; something we pride ourselves with at St Aidan's.

Expectations

We provide:

- Quality tuition, according to nationally recognised syllabus of grading – eg Guildhall, Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Rock School
- An appropriate environment,
- Opportunities to express musicianship (concerts, inter-house competitions, coursework KS3, KS4, Search for a Star, assemblies and liturgies),
- Any lessons missed by the tutor will be rearranged at a mutually agreeable time with the school
- Attendance information; if any lessons are missed by the student, we will inform you about it





St Aidan's Catholic Academy

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to celebrate life to the full'*



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You provide:

- Support and encouragement to practise as prescribed by tutor
- Provision of appropriate equipment and tuition materials as listed below
- Payment for lessons
- Payment for exams entered
- Lessons must be paid for in advance of the commencement of the term's tuition.
- Half a term's notice should be provided in stopping lessons so that tuition groups can be rearranged.

Students:

- Practise regularly as prescribed by the teacher
- Turn up to lessons at the specified time
- Turn up to any ensembles or groups regularly
- Lessons after 4pm, students will be collected by teacher from reception
- All school equipment to be used respectfully and returned after use
- Practise Rooms and teaching rooms to be left tidy
- Academy behaviour expectations apply at all times

Equipment

Students are expected to have access to an instrument (for which they are receiving lessons) to enable private practise. If bringing personal equipment into school students are to make sure they are stored safely in the storage rooms. Although we do provide instruments in school, it is best when performing in a concert or exam to bring personal (and therefore more reliable) equipment – this includes leads.

Tuition Materials

Although tutors are experts in their field and provide high quality teaching material of their own, it is expected that parents/carers will provide books when requested by the tutor. Generally these will be for working towards a music exam for which music is generally under copyright.





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Progression

We are keen to see students progress at St Aidan's. This will take the form of a graded exam with a reputable exam board – currently Guildhall, Rock School, ABRSM or Trinity. From Grade 6 upwards the grades begin accumulating UCAS points. In order to realise students' potential, tutors will enter candidates at their discretion. Ordinarily this should be about once per year.

Payment

The lessons cost £72 per term (which equates to £6.00 per lesson over a 12 week term). Lessons must be paid for in advance. Please feel free to contact the school if you want your son to play an instrument but feel that the fees are unaffordable and we will review these situations on an individual basis. Similarly, reductions can be applied to siblings or second instruments.

If you wish your son to begin tuition, please email cpayne@staca.co.uk stating your son's name, form and instrument(s).

You will then receive an email confirming your son's lesson time and a payment request set up on the school gateway.

Payments for the following term will be set up automatically unless a half term's notice has been received.

NB If your son wishes to stop lessons at any point we must be informed in writing/via the gateway and with at least half a terms notice.

Behaviour

We respect that this is a thriving, vibrant learning environment and as such the existing school rules apply to behaviour to ensure that learning is accessible to all involved in the department.

Furthermore, if any student is deemed to be disrupting the learning of others to an extent beyond that tolerated normally, the member of staff will ask him to leave the lesson. Under these circumstances no refund will be given for that lesson.

