



ASTON FIELDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION AND SINGING LESSONS

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Terms and Conditions

Contact Details

Mr G Hall (Deputy Headteacher/Director of Music)

Mrs T Cormack (School Music Administrator)

Email: music@astonfields.worcs.sch.uk

Lessons Available

Instrumental lessons are provided by highly trained peripatetic teachers. Lessons are available for the following instruments: vocal, violin, viola, cello, double bass, cornet, trumpet, trombone, french horn, tenor horn, tuba, flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, acoustic and electric guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, piano and drums.

If you are interested in an instrument that is not listed, please contact the School Music Administrator who will make further enquiries.

Instrument Hire

Severn Arts offers an instrument hire service to pupils who are having regular lessons in school. Arrangements for the hire of an instrument are made directly with **Severn Arts** by completing their application form, which is available on their website www.sevenarts.org.uk. Please note, they do not hire out guitars, keyboards, pianos or drums. Guitars, however, may be hired through our guitar teacher, Mr V Nicholson at the school. Guitar hire forms can be downloaded from the school website. <https://www.astonfields.worcs.sch.uk/subjects/instrumental-teaching>. Keyboards, piano and drums are available for use whilst in school.

Lessons

The school offers both group and individual lessons. Group lessons are usually taught in groups of 2 or 3. Lessons last for a duration of **20 minutes** and are delivered during the school day. Wherever possible, we try our best to avoid music lessons impacting on the same curriculum lesson each week. However, in the event of a peripatetic teacher only being in for a short period of time, this will not always be possible. Please note, we are an inclusive school and therefore, on occasions, reasonable adjustments to the timetables have to be made for individual pupils. This may mean that their lessons will be at the same time each week. We aim to deliver 35 lessons throughout the year. Severn Arts set the calendar to enable 'catch-up' weeks to take place at the end of the year, in the event of teacher absence. However, their aim is to provide "catch-up" lessons within the same term wherever possible. As a result, it will not become clear until the end of the summer term as to whether a credit/refund is required.

You will be required to purchase music, woodwind reeds or strings etc. It is important that your child has the relevant instrument at home to practise on.

NB Please be mindful, on occasions, your child's group lesson may have to become an individual one at the higher cost. This would be as a result of others within the group deciding not to continue with their lessons. However, we try our best to avoid this and will notify parents/carers accordingly.

Tuition Fees

Group lesson £9.00 per lesson. (Invoiced in advance).

Individual lesson £16.00 per lesson. (Invoiced in advance).

These charges include a small contribution towards the running costs of the School Orchestra and administration costs. Invoices are issued and are payable in advance. The payment due date is strictly 30 days from the receipt of the invoice. If payments are not made within the first two weeks of term, we reserve the right to suspend a pupil's music lesson, at the parent's/carer's expense.

School Orchestra

Pupils who do not have peripatetic music lessons in school may attend the School Orchestra as an extra-curricular activity at a small cost of **£1.50 a week**, payable in advance on a termly basis. Please complete the application form **Music lessons and Orchestra**, which can be accessed through the school website. Please select 'Orchestra' on the form. <https://www.astonfields.worcs.sch.uk/subjects/instrumental-teaching>

Credits/Refunds

Credits/refunds are not available for pupil absence or in unusual circumstances beyond our control, i.e. industrial action or where lessons cannot be delivered due to severe bad weather. In the event of a school trip and/or a sports fixture/club, parents/carers must make the decision if they want their child to attend their music lesson or not. No refund or credit will be given under these circumstances. Due to unforeseen circumstances, where it has not been possible to provide the 35 lessons in the year, a credit/refund will be given.

Notice to Cancel Lessons

Should you wish to cancel your child's music lessons, the school requires a **terms notice**. Notice must be given in **writing** and sent to the School Music Administrator. This is because the music lessons are scheduled with the teachers in advance and Severn Arts sets our fees and notice periods for the teachers' times on an annual basis. The charge of a term's fees represents a genuine pre-estimate of the School's loss in these circumstances, and sometimes, the actual loss to the School will be much greater. This rule is necessary also to promote stability and the School's ability to plan its staffing and other resources. **Failure to give the correct written notice will mean that the next term's fees become payable.**

Applying for Music Tuition

Complete an application form and send it to the Music Administrator, via the school office or by emailing music@astonfields.worcs.sch.uk. If the application is in respect of a child joining Year 5, in September, please await confirmation of acceptance of your child's place at the school before applying.

Once your application has been processed, we will contact you requesting payment and advise you of the start date of the lessons. If there are no available spaces, pupils will be placed on a waiting list and you will be advised accordingly.

Pupil Progress

A commitment to regular practise is essential in order to support a good rate of progress. Severn Arts provides every child with a pupil yearbook which, if taken to each lesson, can be used to track pupil progress and allow for teacher/parent/carer communication.

A detailed annual report on your child's progress is also provided. This is generally issued with the school reports towards the end of the summer term. We value communication between school and parents/carers. Therefore, if you have any questions regarding your child's progress, you are welcome to contact the School Office or the Music Administrator, who will arrange for the relevant peripatetic teacher to contact you.