

FAQs – Musical Instrument Tuition

Who can have instrumental tuition?

Tuition is available for all pupils at the school. Those taking GCSE music are particularly encouraged to take lessons.



What can my child learn to play?

We offer tuition in a wide range of instruments:

- **Woodwind** (flute, clarinet & saxophone)
- **Brass** (cornet, trumpet, trombone, tenor horn, baritone, euphonium & tuba)
- **Strings** (violin & viola)
- **Guitar**
- **Percussion**

Who are the teachers?

All tutors are part of the Caerphilly Music Service (CMS). They are well-qualified and have a wealth of professional experience as teachers and performers.

How much does the tuition cost?

The cost of tuition is £10 per term, payable to school reception.

Do I have to buy a musical instrument?

Pupils are able to obtain a musical instrument through the CMS loan system (except for guitars). This is free of charge and instruments must be returned when they leave the school. When pupils are working towards graded examinations, they are sometimes encouraged to purchase their own instruments, but this is not compulsory.



Where can I buy a musical instrument from?

There are quite a few options available. You are able to buy musical instruments at a reduced price through CMAS. You will need to obtain a form from the relevant tutor. Many music shops run rental schemes that allow you to try the instrument for 2-3 months and then purchase it when you're sure that you're happy with it or when your child shows commitment to playing the instrument. Pupils have also purchased instrument through adverts in local papers and online auction sites such as e-bay. The tutor will be the best person to advise you about which instrument would be best.

Will my child miss lessons in school?

Yes, although tutors create a timetable which means that pupils don't have their lesson at the same time each week. Pupils must ensure that they obtain permission from their subject teachers and catch up on any work missed.

What if my child can't attend a lesson?

The appropriate tutor needs to be informed as soon as possible so that the time can still be used productively. If absent from school, a telephone call or email would be very much appreciated.

If my child is having lessons, what is expected of him/her?

It is essential that pupils are prepared for their instrumental lessons. This means that regular practice must be done in between lessons and they must have their instruments with them on the day. Pupils are also expected to participate in various musical activities during the year such as concerts and school performances. Attendance at rehearsals is also required.

Are there any other costs involved?

Pupils need to buy the relevant sheet music for their lessons, as requested by the relevant instrument tutor. A majority of it is available through amazon.co.uk (new & used) and musicroom.com. Pupils also need to have access to spare reeds, strings, valve oil etc. If appropriate, the instrumental tutor may want to enter pupils for graded music examinations. Details of fees can be found at:

<http://www.abrsm.org/?page=regions/uk/eng/fees.html>

<http://www.rockschool.co.uk/index.aspx?siteref=rsl&pageID=195> (guitar only)