TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS, COORDINATED BY WESSEX SCHOOLS MUSIC 2026-27

Arrangement of lessons

Following receipt of an application, if it is within the first 4 weeks of the half term, it will normally be possible to arrange lessons to start in the following half term. We will endeavor to meet your group-size requirements, but this may not always be possible. The instrumental music staff may need flexibility during the academic year to alter group sizes for the following reasons: 1. Individual pupils' progress within the group. 2. Commencement/termination of lessons by pupils. Any alteration of these group sizes, for whatever reason, will only take place at the beginning of each half term. You will be consulted by telephone or in writing prior to any changes. Occasionally, it may be necessary to swap teachers around part way through the year. This would only occur at the start of a half term, and we would try to ensure that any change of teacher went as smoothly as possible.

Payment for lessons:

All Wessex Schools Music teachers do their own billing. The contract for the lessons is between you and the Wessex Schools Music teacher. The rates for lessons are as stated on our website. The distribution of bills and collection of monies owed is the teacher's responsibility. The teachers will aim to teach 30-34 lessons over the year. Bills will be issued in advance (usually termly) at the start of each term. Some teachers may offer an option of payment by Standing Order. Failure to pay promptly will result in the possibility of your son/daughter's instrumental peripatetic music lessons being withdrawn.

Lesson Costs 2026-27:

Costs of lessons for this academic year are as follows:

Individual lesson for 30 mins = £22.75
Individual lesson for 20 mins = £15.17
Individual lesson for 15 mins = £11.38
Individual lesson for 10 mins = £7.58

Group of 2 for 30 mins = £11.38
Group of 2 for 20 mins = £7.58
Group of 3 for 30 mins = £7.58
Group of 4 for 30 mins = £5.69

Attendance:

It is the student's responsibility to attend their arranged lessons. Wessex Schools Music teachers cannot be expected to deal with absence, although the Head of Service will be notified by the visiting music teachers of persistent absence and will deal with the matter accordingly. The Wessex Schools Music teachers will not be able to provide refunds when the teacher is available and the student is absent, for whatever reason (including holidays, sickness, lateness or forgetfulness). In exceptional circumstances (for example school trips and examinations) with **at least one weeks' written notice given directly to the teacher**, the teacher may try and provide the lesson at another time. However, this may not always be possible.

Notice period for stopping lessons:

If your son/daughter wishes to discontinue lessons for any reason, please be aware that the Wessex Schools Music Office requires **NOTICE IN WRITING** as per the dates listed below. If you do not let us know by these dates, lessons will automatically continue and you will be charged accordingly.

Date that notice is received by Wessex Music	**Discontinuation of lessons to take effect not before:**
2 Nov 2026	18 December 2026
5 January 2027	12 February 2027
22 February 2027	25 March 2027
13 April 2027	28 May 2027
7 June 2027	22 July 2027

Wessex Schools Visiting Music Teachers

All staff are self-employed. The contract for lessons is between the parent and the teacher. Wessex Schools Music operates to simply coordinate tuition in schools. Wessex Schools Music will ensure that all staff are DBS checked, have regular safeguarding training and have Public Liability Insurance.

Students in Examination Years:

Students in years 11 and 13 will automatically have their lessons terminated at the **end of the Spring Term** unless their parents wish them to continue either in school or via online lessons (if so please put this in writing to the Wessex Schools Music Office). Students who have mock exams should re-arrange their instrumental lessons directly with their music teacher – please try to do this with plenty of notice.

Staff Obligations:

It is expected that staff will:

- Organise an up-to-date rotating timetable and make alterations if necessary. Display this timetable in advance, allowing students to see when their lesson is going to be.
- Encourage and motivate students to learn, practise and improve.
- Reward students for good work using the school's commendation system.
- Teach music notation and aural training.
- Write a report or facilitate an online parents evening for students once a year.
- Communicate with parents via a practice notebook or by email/phone regularly.
- Prepare students for performance assessments at GCSE and A level.
- Prepare students to enter external instrumental examinations if appropriate.
- Keep a weekly lesson register.
- Accompany their students on the piano where applicable.
- Staff will aim to teach 30-34 lessons per academic year. Staff may, if appropriate, arrange for a performance opportunity or workshop for students in lieu of a lesson (e.g., a concert instead of the last lesson of the term, or a workshop when timetabling becomes tricky during the exam season).

Student Obligations:

It is expected that students will

- Check noticeboards for lesson timetables.
- Attend their lessons on time.
- Bring their sheet music/books to lessons.

- Bring their notebook to lessons and refer to it during the week.
- Bring their instruments to lessons.
- Play their instrument regularly at home, in preparation for their lessons and to ensure consistent progress.

Parent Obligations:

It is expected that parents will

- Pay bills promptly
- Inform the teacher in writing 1 week in advance if their son / daughter is going to be on a trip, or otherwise unavailable for their lesson (for instance has in-school assessments that they can't miss).
- Encourage their son/daughter to play their instrument as much as possible.
- Purchase any sheet music or books that are required.
- Remind their son/daughter of their lessons.
- Read lesson notebooks weekly to ensure good communication with the teacher – it is advisable to buy a small notebook for this purpose
- Do their best to provide a quiet environment where their son / daughter can practise.

Examination Entries:

Students may be entered for external instrumental exams at the recommendation of their teacher – names are given to the Wessex Music office who will advise on how to enter for the exam. A piano accompanist can also be provided for a fee, which can be arranged through Wessex Music.