

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Instrumental Music Service



Information Leaflet

“

I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning

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Plato

Renfrewshire Instrumental Music Service

delivers free instrumental music lessons to primary and secondary pupils and young people in schools. Lessons are provided in bagpipes, brass, guitar, percussion, pipe drumming, strings, and woodwind. However, the choice of instruments available will vary from school to school.

The service is delivered by instrumental music teachers who work closely and in partnership with schools and music departments to deliver a curriculum which enables each child or young person to be successful, confident, responsible and an effective contributor.

Learning through music provides pupils and young people with a wide range of opportunities and learning experiences which develop and prepare them for life beyond school.

Learning to play a musical instrument is fun and along with the musical benefits, it develops self-esteem and confidence; improves concentration and discipline; enhances co-ordination, language, memory, and social skills and has a positive impact on health & wellbeing. It teaches pupils and young people how to work as part of a team and contributes to the life of the school and wider community.

How can my child learn a musical instrument?

Learning a musical instrument is open to pupils from primary 5 (strings only) and primary 6 (*depending on staff availability and resources) however, this will vary from school to school. Unfortunately, demand will always exceed availability, so it may not be possible to offer every pupil an instrument. If your child is not successful, they will have additional opportunities to apply to learn an instrument at our Saturday music centre in primary 7 and in first year at high school.

What happens if my child is offered a musical instrument?

Your child will enter into a six-week trial period. Following completion of this trial period and, after discussion with your child's instrumental music teacher, a decision will be made if your child should continue/discontinue instrumental lessons.

How much does it cost?

Lessons are provided free, but you will be expected to buy music and resources such as reeds, strings, valve oil or percussion sticks/mallets. We will make every effort to keep costs to a minimum. An instrument will be provided on loan during your child's learning at primary school, with the expectation parents/carers purchase or rent an instrument when their child moves to secondary school (where financially possible).

How are instrumental lessons delivered?

- Lessons are delivered in school, during the school day
- At primary school, these generally take place at the same time each week
- At secondary school, pupils will follow a rotation timetable which ensures they are not removed from the same class each week

What your child will receive

- A weekly lesson with an instrumental music teacher
- The opportunity to participate in our school and authority groups/ensembles
- Performance opportunities at school and authority concerts/events
- An annual instrumental music report

What happens as my child progresses?

As part of your child's learning, they will be encouraged to assess themselves by sitting SQA and external music exams. Please note that external music exams passed at grades 6, 7 & 8 achieve valuable points on university and college application forms (UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/>)

As your child progresses and when they achieve the appropriate level (instrumental teacher will advise), there is an expectation that they make every effort to participate in our school and authority groups/ensembles. Participating in groups/ensembles is an integral part of making music and the life skills experienced through working and achieving with others, helps develop and shape who they become in the future.

School rehearsals normally take place at lunchtimes or after school. Our authority ensemble programme, which consists of pupils from all over Renfrewshire, generally runs from September to March with rehearsals taking place in the evenings or on Saturday mornings. Participation in these groups/ensembles helps to challenge and further develop your child's musical learning.

What can I do to help support my child?

Learning to play a musical instrument is challenging and takes practice and personal commitment. We appreciate that not all parents/carers will have the musical knowledge or skills to help, but your role in supporting your child's learning is the foundation to their success.

- Encourage and schedule regular practice time
- Listen to your child playing whenever possible
- Be positive, particularly during those difficult early stages – perhaps offer to learn with your child?
- Encourage and remind your child to attend weekly lessons and rehearsals
- Do not hesitate to contact your child's instrumental music teacher if you have a question or require advice
- Encourage and support your child's participation at school and authority groups/ensembles.



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Where can I get more information?



Your child's school will be able to help or if your question is more generally about instrumental music, you can email mark.traynor@renfrewshire.gov.uk or telephone 0300 300 0170

To stay informed, download the music service app - **SCHOOL APP FOR PARENTS** from the google play or apple app store. Then select RENFREWSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE from the [add school](#) menu.