

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. ”

Plato

Renfrewshire Instrumental Music Service offers no-cost instrumental music lessons to primary and secondary pupils in schools. Lessons are provided on 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 that 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 coordination, language, memory, and social skills, and has a positive impact on health & well-being. It teaches pupils and young people how to work as part of a team 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. As demand always exceeds availability, it is not possible to offer every pupil an instrument. However, if your child is not successful at this stage, they will have additional opportunities to apply to learn an instrument at our Saturday Music Centre in primary 7 and, if there is capacity, in first year at high school.

What happens if my child is offered a musical instrument?

Your child will start with a short trial period to see how things go. Once the trial period has ended, and following discussion with your child's instrumental music teacher, a decision will be made regarding whether your child will continue with instrumental lessons.

How much does it cost?

Lessons are provided at no cost, but you will be expected to purchase music and resources such as reeds, strings, valve oil, or percussion sticks/mallets. An instrument will be provided on loan at primary or in the first year of high school depending on when tuition commences. It is expected, that following the loan period, parents/carers will make every effort to purchase/rent an instrument. However, if you're unable financially to purchase/rent an instrument, Renfrewshire Council will provide an instrument to ensure your child can continue with their instrumental tuition at school.

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 school and authority groups/ensembles
- Performance opportunities at school and authority concerts/events
- An update on your child's progress

What happens as my child progresses?

As part of your child's learning, they will be encouraged to assess themselves through 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 in their musical journey, and once they reach an appropriate level (their instrumental music teacher will advise), they will be encouraged to take part in school and local authority groups/ensembles. Participation in these groups is an important part of their musical development. It

not only supports their educational learning but also develops essential life skills like teamwork, dedication, and self-confidence. School rehearsals will generally take place at lunchtime and/or after school. In addition, our authority ensemble programme, which consists of pupils from throughout Renfrewshire, runs from September to March with rehearsals taking place in the evenings. 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 rewarding, requiring practice and personal commitment. We appreciate that not all parents/carers will have the musical knowledge and/or skills to help with their child's learning, but your role in supporting your child is the foundation of 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.



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 0141 487 2496.

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.