



ST CHRISTOPHER'S
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

MUSIC DEPARTMENT
INSTRUMENTAL
LESSONS

2025 - 2026

Introduction

There is an excellent musical tradition at St Christopher's and we are keen to encourage all our pupils to learn a musical instrument of their choice. We have a wide variety of instruments on offer and many school instruments available to pupils who wish to hire one.

The school has a team of sixteen visiting instrumental teachers, all highly qualified and experts in their fields, teaching a wide spectrum of instruments from violin to drum-kit to voice!

Lessons are taught in small groups of two or three for 20 / 30 minutes or pupils can opt to have an individual lesson if they prefer. Each pupil is given a timetabled lesson time by their instrumental teacher.

It is great fun to learn a musical instrument and it benefits the pupils greatly both socially and academically. It does require work to become proficient and the key to good progress is through regular practice on a daily basis.

We encourage all the pupils learning instruments to join one of the school's many ensembles and this helps to develop further their technique and musicianship. This is the most rewarding aspect of playing an instrument and an essential part of the pupil's musical development.

For any pupils who access the Government's Pupil Premium or have free school meals they can have FREE instrument lessons.

This booklet should explain all that you need to know about instrumental lessons at St Christopher's, but if you have any further questions then please don't hesitate to telephone the Music Department at school or email us on music@st-christophers.org and speak to either myself or one of the music staff. We will be very pleased to answer any queries you may have.



Miss H. F. Davies

Director of Music and Head of Performing Arts

Instruments

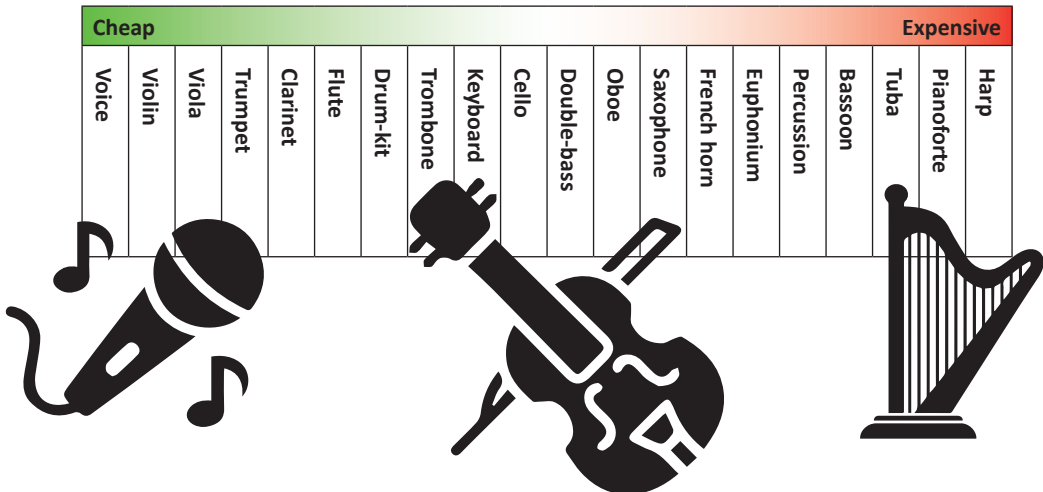
School has a good stock of maintained instruments and these are available to pupils for hire on a termly basis.

They are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and we are constantly adding new instruments to our stock. There is, however, a high demand for these instruments and for pupils who are unable to have a school instrument, we can recommend various hire purchase schemes through local music shops.

Buying an instrument can seem very expensive but it is an investment and it is always possible to sell them again later. Most instruments hold their value provided they have been maintained and looked after properly.

School has a good stock of reeds, spare strings and other accessories which are available at competitive prices for pupils to buy. Music books can also be purchased through the school when necessary, usually with a 10% discount.

The following chart shows the scale of instrument prices from cheap to expensive (please note that this is an approximate guide).



Guide to Instruments

VOICE

The most portable and cheapest of all instruments! There is nothing better than a properly trained singing voice, whether you wish to be a pop star or an opera singer!

VIOLIN

It is well worth learning to play the violin at an early age and school has several violins available for hire. Instruments available to buy can start as cheap as £50 with the better instruments a little more expensive. It does take some time to master the technique of the violin, and a good ear for music is essential.

VIOLA

Similar to the violin although a little bigger in size and a little more expensive. Viola players are always in great demand and the music is easier than that for the violin. We have two violas available to hire to pupils.

CELLO

A beautiful mellow sounding instrument which, when played beautifully, can move people to tears. It looks rather big to carry around but is very light and we allow pupils to leave it at home and use another instrument in school for their lessons. The cello does not 'screech' as much as the violin in the early stages of learning to play.

DOUBLE BASS

An instrument used both in orchestras and bands and GREAT fun to learn to play. It is the largest of the string family and the music is very simple for beginners.

HARP

A beautiful instrument to learn, with many pupils starting on the clarsach (small harp). Although we have no instruments available to pupils in school, we would be pleased to arrange a teacher for any pupils who wish to learn the harp.

FLUTE

This is the most popular of all the woodwind instruments and it is fairly simple to learn in the early stages. Orchestral parts are very demanding for the accomplished player and there is a wide repertoire.

OBOE

The oboe has a beautiful tone which takes time to acquire but is WELL worth the effort. The instrument is fairly expensive and reeds must be purchased. There are not many oboe players around and as a consequence players are much in demand. School has two oboes available for pupils to hire.

CLARINET

Again, like the flute, this is a very popular instrument for pupils to learn and quite easy to get the hang of. As well as the classical music repertoire for the clarinet it is used a lot in jazz.

BASSOON

An expensive instrument to buy although we have one in school available to pupils. It is a beautiful instrument to learn and bassoonists are always highly sought after.

SAXOPHONE

There are four types of saxophone and they are all an essential part of the Jazz Band. Great fun to learn with results achieved easily with a little practice. Players of the saxophone often begin on the clarinet.

FRENCH HORN

A good sense of pitch is essential for playing the French Horn – but what a beautiful instrument to play! Players are always in demand and we can arrange for pupils to have instruments through the Schools Music Service.

TENOR HORN

A brass and wind band instrument which has a lovely tone. It is slightly easier to play than the French horn and we have several instruments in school.

EUPHONIUM

The baby tuba! A lovely instrument which is great fun to play. It, again, is a brass band instrument rather than one used in the orchestra.

TRUMPET/CORNET

This is the most popular of all the brass instruments and is the cheapest. It is used in all kinds of music from Jazz and Pop to Orchestral.

TROMBONE

Great fun! Players need fairly long arms to operate the slide. This instrument, like the trumpet, is used in all sorts of music.

TUBA

The largest of all the brass instruments but exciting to play. We have tubas available to pupils.

PERCUSSION

Great variety with all the different instruments such as Xylophone and Marimba, not forgetting the kettle drums. School has a complete set of instruments for students and a great percussion ensemble for them to play in.

DRUM-KIT

The most popular of all the percussion instruments and if parents can cope with the noise, pupils will love playing it!

GUITAR

Easy to carry and easy to learn in the beginning stages. This can be studied as acoustic or electric guitar with the option to study bass guitar at a later date.

PIANO

A wonderful instrument to learn. When players become more accomplished, there is the scope for playing duets. Pianos are expensive but there are often really good second-hand instruments available.

KEYBOARD

Great fun, and the music is much easier than that for the piano. Keyboards can be easily purchased in local music shops and start at quite a reasonable price.

Tuition Terms and Conditions

- 34 / 36 lessons are given across the year.
- Lessons cost **£7** for a **shared 20-minute lesson** and **£12** for an **individual 20-minute lesson** and **£14** for an **individual 30-minute lesson**. We have two Lancashire Music Instrumental Staff teaching drum-kit and rock guitar and the cost for these lessons is **£8** for a **shared 20-minute lesson**, **£13** for an **individual 20-minute lesson** and **£15** for an **individual 30-minute lesson**.
- Instruments can be hired from school at a cost of **£35** per term.
- Lessons costs are paid directly to the Instrumental Teacher and they will issue an invoice to be paid each half term. The lessons have to be paid for at the beginning of each half term before lessons can commence. Lancashire Music Service lesson costs are payable direct to school on Parent Pay.
- Each pupil will be given a lesson time by their instrumental teacher and this will be arranged direct with them. Pupils find it quite easy to catch up on any work missed during the 20 / 30 minute lesson.
- Copies of all the timetables are posted outside the music rooms. Copies are also available for pupils to take home and these can also be e-mailed to parents.
- **Credit is not given if a pupil misses a lesson because they forget, are absent or choose not to attend.**
- If a teacher is absent then the lesson will be made up at a later date; likewise, if the school has an event that involves pupils or causes the teacher to be absent. Where it is impossible to rearrange the lessons, these will be credited by the instrumental teacher.
- Instrument reeds and spares can be bought through school, and school undertakes to maintain all school instruments and provide reeds and strings for these as necessary.
- If a school instrument is damaged or broken through carelessness then it is the responsibility of the parents to pay for repair. Please ensure that school instruments are added to your household insurance policy whilst they are in your care.
- Sheet music for lessons can be purchased through school (10% discount) or in local music shops. Pupils are expected to have copies of their own music and the department actively discourages the use of photocopies that break copyright laws.
- Reports detailing the pupils' progress and attendance at lessons are sent home once a year to parents.
- Pupils are issued with practice diaries which we ask parents to check and sign each week. This enables good communication between home and school and allows you to communicate with the instrumental staff.
- **WE DO REQUIRE A HALF TERM'S NOTICE IN WRITING FOR CANCELLATION OF MUSIC LESSONS.**

Music Department Shop

The department has a stock of accessories for the various instruments that can be purchased by pupils. These are normally cheaper than you will find them in the shops and usually carry a minimum 10% discount.

Woodwind	Reeds for clarinets and saxophones, various straps and accessories
Strings	For all violins, violas and cellos; a variety of makes and quality. Resin and peg grease also stocked.
Percussion	Snare Drum, Xylophone and Timpani sticks, various accessories.
Brass	Valve and slide oil, various accessories.

Instrument Purchase Scheme

School operates an instrument purchase scheme with the Government which allows pupils **WHO HAVE LESSONS AT SCHOOL** to purchase an instrument of their choice **VAT-FREE!** Purchasing an instrument through this scheme offers a considerable saving on any instrument bought as we can get a competitive educational price PLUS save you 20% on top.

Please do contact us at school and we will be only too happy to advise you on the best choice of instrument for your son / daughter. There are many makes of instruments available and many shops to purchase them in – so please do ask us before embarking on a purchase. Your son / daughter’s instrument teacher will also be happy to advise you on this issue.

We are happy to provide parents with various catalogues and names of suitable shops from which to purchase instruments – please don’t hesitate to contact us at school.



**“That person is like a tree
planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither -
whatever they do prospers.”**

Psalm 1:3



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