



CLAIRES COURT
JUNIORS

2023/2024

Instrumental Tuition



Instrumental

Tuition

At Claires Court we aim to foster a supportive and exciting environment with music making at its core. The atmosphere of inclusive, purposeful music making in the school is greatly respected and the majority of students choose to become involved in the wider musical life of the school as well as in weekly class lessons.

Instrumental and vocal tuition is first class, delivered by visiting professionals, all of whom come to us with a wealth of performing and teaching experience. There is a programme of ensembles and extra-curricular activities to support curriculum work. There are a large number of performance opportunities available including concerts, school productions, showcases, inter house competitions and community events.

What instrument(s) could my child learn through school?

We offer individual half-hour lessons on the following wide range of instruments:

Singing (all styles)	Piano (classical)	Drums
Violin/viola	Cello	Flute
Trumpet	Trombone	Tuba
Acoustic guitar	Electric guitar	Saxophone

If your child has expressed an interest in playing an instrument not on the list, please contact Mrs Emma Stevenson, Head of Junior Music, directly with your enquiry:
evs@clairescourt.net

Hire of instruments

Ideally, while expense should not be a major influence on the decision to learn any instrument, purchase costs can be a factor at times. Hiring an instrument may well be preferable in the short term, with most companies running a 'hire to buy' scheme. Further to this, many outlets will offer a discount to schools, so please contact us for advice if you decide to make a purchase.

What about grade exams?

Students have the opportunity to work towards grade exams (ABRSM/Trinity/Rock School) if they wish. These are held termly outside of school. Whilst these are not compulsory, they provide a focus for practice and a sense of achievement when complete.

What is an appropriate amount of practice?

We would suggest that musical progress is best supported through encouraging a positive attitude to learning and commitment to a regular practice routine, with the idea that deliberate and mindful practice 'little and often' is preferable to hours spent just going through the motions. That said, an approximate guide per day may be: Beginners: 5-10 minutes; Grades 1-3: 20 minutes; Grades 4-5: 30 minutes.

Will I still be charged for a lesson if my child is absent?

Students are expected to attend all lessons and to check their scheduled lesson time on the noticeboard in advance. Instrumental teachers will also share a timetable with parents/guardians via email. Peripatetic teachers are entitled to charge for scheduled lessons and are under no obligation to make up lessons missed by students. This is also in the case of scheduled lessons missed through short-term illness. The school does inform teachers of trips and activities via the school calendar involving whole year groups, but if parents are aware of an additional school activity then they should contact the teacher directly to notify them. Where possible, peripatetic teachers will attempt to make up for the missed lesson at some point over the course of the term or issue a refund for the missed lesson(s) as appropriate.

Would I need to give notice for lessons to cease?

When lessons begin, a contract is signed with the instrumental teacher, setting out their terms, conditions and obligations. Whilst we would recommend checking individual contracts for the most accurate information regarding notice periods, it is usually expected that a term's notice be given in writing if lessons are to stop.

Extra-curricular

Activities

Clares Court offers a diverse mix of extra-curricular activities designed to provide opportunities for all, those who play an instrument and those who simply love joining in. Activities available:

Junior Choir

Musical Theatre Club

String Ensemble

Ukulele Band

Ocarina Group

Recorder Ensemble

Performance opportunities

Our musicians enjoy considerable opportunities to share their work in performance. In addition to more informal platforms in class time and within the school's events programme (such as informal concerts, music assemblies and the school fête), termly concerts offer a more formal context in which members of the wider school community are welcomed into the audience.



Frequently Asked *Questions*

How long are lessons?

Lessons are normally 30 minutes long, though arrangements may be made for younger pupils to have a 20-minute lesson if appropriate. It is expected that each term will consist of 10 lessons, amounting to 30 lessons per year.

When do lessons take place?

Instrumental/vocal lessons run on a rotation during the timetabled school day wherever possible. This helps to ensure that students do not miss the same lesson each week, and is generally a highly effective arrangement. Steps may be taken to ensure that there are some fixed lessons before school for students who can regularly attend an early lesson.

How much do they cost?

Lesson charges are set individually by visiting staff. As a guide, they are usually charged at between £19-25 per 30-minute lesson.

How are lessons paid for?

Peripatetic teachers issue invoices and timetables at the start of each term to parents/guardians. Payment should be made directly to the teacher.



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