

Instrumental Music Service

Information for Parents/Carers



The value of music tuition

Music in all its forms plays a huge role in Scotland's culture and life. In our schools, music education - including learning to play a musical instrument - provides enormous benefits for young people.

East Lothian Instrumental Music Service aims to:

- Provide equal opportunities of access for all pupils to experience the expressive and creative qualities of music through learning to play an instrument
- To help as many pupils as possible to realise their full musical potential through the playing of an instrument

The benefits of music tuition

In addition to the obvious musical benefits the link between learning to play a musical instrument and enhancing the general learning ability of pupils has been widely recognised for some time. Some of these benefits are:

- Improved self esteem
- Confidence
- The ability to communicate
- Personal expression
- Self-discipline and organisational skills
- Working together with others
- Learning to play an instrument is fun, can relieve stress and improve all aspects of health and wellbeing



Frequently Asked Questions

How does music tuition work in East Lothian?

East Lothian Council employ a number of professionally qualified Instrumental Instructors, who provide music tuition in both primary and secondary schools. They work in partnership with the schools, pupils and their families.

All our instructors are fully PVG checked and carry out regular safeguarding training. Tuition is quality assured by the Instrumental Music Co-ordinator and colleagues from other local authorities in the South East Improvement Collaborative.

Tuition is currently provided in Upper and Lower Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Piano, Guitar and Pipes. String tuition may start at Primary 4 and percussion at Secondary 1. All other tuition will usually start from Primary 5 onwards. Please note that due to the specialisms of the Instrumental Instructors not all instruments are available in all schools.

Who can apply for lessons?

Anyone!

Schools will inform parents when the Instrumental Instructors will be in school and inform them which instruments are available. If your child is interested you should return the application letter to the school as soon as possible.

There may be a few simple tests involved at this stage and the Instrumental Instructor will have dialogue with the relevant staff members in the school who know the child well. Pupils will be selected based on musical ability and their potential.

Depending on availability of instruments and space on the timetable not all pupils interested in tuition may be given a place. If your child does not gain a place their name will be kept on a waiting list and may be offered tuition if places become available.

How do the lessons work?

Instructors will offer a minimum of 30 lessons scheduled across the academic year, based upon the individual Instructor's timetable. Lessons last 30 minutes

and are given during the school day, usually on a rotation basis so pupils do not miss the same topic/subject every week.

Lessons are taught mainly in groups to allow a greater number of pupils to participate. Within the groups, pupils will receive tuition tailored to their own individual needs.

If the pupil misses a lesson due to absence outwith their control (sickness absence, exams, holidays, school trips etc.) then the Instructor may be able to reschedule the lesson however, this cannot be guaranteed.

For long term absence (due to illness or injury) a deferment may be agreed at the discretion of the Instrumental Music Co-ordinator.

While lessons continue throughout the academic session, every effort will be made to ensure S4, 5 and 6 leavers will receive 30 lessons before they undertake study leave. Discussion on this should be undertaken with the individual Instrumental Instructor.

How much does it cost?

The service is funded by East Lothian Council but there is a charge for tuition.

The fee levels are set out in the table below and there are discounts for families where siblings are also undertaking tuition.

There is a bursary scheme, which will provide support to pupils from a households with a total taxable income of less than £26,884. This bursary, rather than being a monetary award, will instead be a contribution towards the full cost of tuition, resulting in those pupils paying only 70% of the total cost.

There is no charge for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals and/or Clothing Grant, Looked after Children within East Lothian Council's Social Care system, and pupils using their tutored instrument towards an SQA qualification in years S4-S6.

Instrumental Music Service Fees Academic Year 2018-19

	Full fee	Concessionary Fee
Eldest Child undertaking tuition	£280	£196
Siblings also undertaking tuition	£240	£168

Do I need to buy an Instrument?

Often your child will be issued with an instrument belonging to East Lothian Council.

Instrumental Instructors will give advice on instrument care. It is the responsibility of the pupils and parents to ensure the instruments are maintained in the condition that they are issued.

At a later stage you may wish your child to possess his/her own instrument and we would advise that the Instructor's advice is sought before purchase. Instruments can be bought through the school without paying VAT, and often at discounted prices. This must be organised through the Instructor and with the agreement of the school.

Parents/carers purchasing their own instruments should also ensure that they are insured in case of theft/damage as East Lothian Council cannot accept liability.

Are there any other costs?

You may also be asked to provide music and instrument related equipment such as replacement strings, reeds and valve oil.



How do I register for lessons for my child?

In order to commence tuition all pupils must be registered in each academic year. For pupils who wish to continue receiving tuition, a registration form will be available prior to the summer break. Forms will be available online, from the Instructors or from the school office.

For new pupils, once decisions have been made about beginning lessons the Instructor will send a pupil registration form home. This must be countersigned by the Instrumental Instructor.

How do I apply for free or concessionary rate tuition for my child?

The registration form contains sections to complete if applying for free or reduced tuition.

A full breakdown of the amount to pay, along with a schedule of payments due will be sent once registration is complete.

How do I make payments?

You can pay in 10 monthly or 3 termly instalments or make a one off payment at the start of the academic year.

Payments can be made online via the School's online payment system, iPayimpact. This is expected to be rolled out to all schools by the end of 2018 and you will receive information from the school when it is available.

If your child attends a school which has not yet implemented this system, online payments can be made via the council's Pay for It system.

Payment by cash or cheque can be made at the school office. Please make cheques payable to East Lothian Council and include your child's name, date of birth and what the payment is for on the back of the cheque.



Are there any other commitments?

As with most things, the more effort you put in you, the greater the reward. As well as attending lessons, pupils should:

- Practice on a daily basis
- Participate in school/authority ensembles
- Attend rehearsals/performances as required

Performing is a very important part of any musician's training and provides opportunities to develop a child's self-esteem and confidence.

East Lothian Council offer many opportunities for pupils to perform both at school level and also at Authority level (e.g. East Lothian Schools Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Piano Festival etc.).

Every year the Instrumental Music Service organises the East Lothian Showcase Concert at the Brunton Hall which showcases the very high standard of performance our young East Lothian musicians achieve. Those taking part frequently comment on how enjoyable the experience is.

How can I support my child?

- Offer support and encouragement and encourage home practice
- Encourage participation in playing as part of an orchestra or ensemble
- Attend performances where possible
- Encourage them to look after their instrument

How will I be informed of my child's progress?

Parents/carers will be issued with reports from the instrumental instructor in line with the school's current reporting procedures. Also the Instrumental staff will be available at a parent consultation session.

Will my child do exams?

There is no requirement to take exams unless this forms part of an SQA qualification, and many pupils take part for the enjoyment and social interaction playing an instrument can bring. However, there are opportunities to take them through external providers e.g. Associated Board or Trinity exams.

The exams can be a recognition of achievement which can be recorded on university, college and employment application forms.

There are fees for these exams, payable by the parent.

Can my child receive extra tuition?

Educationally it is not advisable that a pupil receives tuition on the same instrument from more than one tutor. Instrumental tuition requires an individualised approach to matters of technique and repertoire. As a result lessons on the same instrument by more than one tutor can hinder progress.

What happens if my child moves School?

If a pupil transfers to another school within East Lothian then every effort will be made to continue lessons although in some cases this may not be possible.

How do I stop my child's lessons?

We appreciate there are many reasons that lessons may be stopped.

You should notify, in writing, your intention to stop your child's lessons to the Instrumental instructor and also to:

Instrumental Music Service
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

Email: ims@eastlothian.gov.uk

A pro-rata refund may be given if an upfront payment (one off or termly has been made).

In order to improve the service, it would be helpful if the reason for terminating the lessons is provided.

Contact Details

For enquiries and further information please contact:

Instrumental Music Service
Education Business Unit
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

Email: ims@eastlothian.gov.uk
Tel: 01620 827491

