

Prospectus and Terms and Conditions



Instrumental Music Tuition

And

Central Groups

2025-2026



Foreword

In recognition of the integral part instrumental music plays in pupils' education and welfare, Scottish Government has announced that **instrumental music lessons will continue to be delivered free of charge**.

Authorities, in seeking to further enrich the educational experience available to school pupils, regard instrumental provision as offering a further dimension to the school curriculum.

As well as the benefits available to the individual pupil, numbers of instrumental ensembles in school, regional and national youth orchestras and bands continue to develop offering further musical opportunities.

Instrumental music education, both formal and informal, is recognised as preparing children for life. The ability to perform on a musical instrument fosters creativity and teaches critical assessment of the world around us and instils the basic values of self-discipline.

Some lessons are delivered through the Youth Music Initiative funding from Creative Scotland. This provision is a primary-based offer.

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Benefits

The following benefits of learning to play a musical instrument are recognised by all who are involved in the teaching process:

- Your child, when learning to play a musical instrument, develops a wide range of unique skills providing a means of fulfilment and enjoyment whilst nurturing a greater understanding of the arts.
- You, as parents, can enjoy and share the child's excitement in learning to play an instrument. Your child performing at a concert will provide you with a great sense of pride and satisfaction.
- Schools will provide opportunities for pupils to enrich their curriculum and the life of the school. This offers an additional focus for the arts and enhances the school's profile.
- Instrumental music prepares pupils to make a meaningful contribution towards the artistic life of their community.
- Research has indicated that pupils' attainment in learning and teaching across all subjects within the whole school curriculum is enhanced by studying a musical instrument.

The Perth and Kinross Instrumental Music Service consists of thirty-two permanent and part-time staff offering instruction on Strings, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Pipe Band Drumming, Piano, Guitar, Singing and Bagpipes.

Most staff are Conservatoire graduates, which means they are exceptionally well qualified and experienced in delivering instrumental teaching.

All new staff are carefully selected through the interview process, which includes criminal record checks for the safety of the pupils.

Objectives

The following objectives are based on a study of good practice evident in the distinct nature of the work of instrumental staff currently employed in Perth and Kinross Schools.

- To provide opportunities of access for all pupils to experience the expressive and creative qualities of music through learning to play a musical instrument as part of education for life.
- To encourage and enable pupils to realise their full potential through the mastery of technical skills, the development of musical perception and aesthetic sensitivity. To encourage self-confidence and develop a sense of achievement and self-expression.
- To offer musical experiences. To enhance and support the music curriculum. To help pupils acquire skills which will allow them to enjoy and become actively involved in a wide range of musical experiences contributing to the musical life of the school and the community.
- To develop skills. To encourage and assist pupils to develop their intellectual, affective, psychomotor, social, and personal skills. To help pupils foster an understanding of music in the everyday life of their own and other cultures. **Research has indicated that these instrumental music skills enhance pupils' overall learning attainment across the whole curriculum as well as enriching personal wellbeing.**

The above objectives are particularly enhanced by the Perth and Kinross Central Groups (see page 8) which give attending pupils an opportunity to meet, rehearse and socialise with other pupils from all over Perth and Kinross. These groups are an integral part of the Instrumental Music Service and have been carefully structured to run in conjunction with school tuition. **It is expected that pupils receiving instrumental instruction will make every effort to attend these Central Groups and their School Bands to utilise this provision to the maximum.**

Registration Procedures

Pupils, and pupils' parents, will be contacted through their schools with regards to instrument availability of music tuition and how to register their interest.

Due to the high demand for applications, applicants will be assessed for suitability and compatibility and, if necessary, advised as to their best choice of instrument.

Tuition will only commence on receipt of a completed registration form and when an offer of tuition is made.

The Perth & Kinross Instrumental Music Service will continue to deliver top quality music provision using the best teaching techniques and methods of delivery available. When music tuition is delivered in school pupils will be expected to:

- only use their GLOW email address. Microsoft Teams is the main tool, and pupils will be expected to check their instrumental music team regularly for updates.
- be punctual for all lessons
- access the files for each lesson in advance and have the materials to hand
- submit all assignments on time in accordance with the agreed protocols
- dress appropriately for all classes, thinking about modesty and respect for others
- seek to contribute to the lesson in a positive manner and not be disruptive at any time
- not share recordings/images of the lesson

Parents are encouraged to download the “PKC Safeguarding Principles and Practice in an Online Setting” document from the Instrumental Music Service website www.pkcmusic.com/resources

Parents of pupils who unfortunately are not able to access the Service immediately due to availability of places will receive communication, via email where possible, and the pupil's name will be added to the instructor's waiting list. Parents will be notified if a space becomes available in the future.

A basic instrument is supplied initially with a view to pupils obtaining their own instrument when compatibility has been realised.

Staff deployment



Initially, priority of instruction time goes to the secondary schools where Education and Children's Services strive to offer each school an equal, balanced amount of instruction. Instrumental staff will teach a balanced number of pupils from years S1 – S6 to ensure constant pupil progress and to allow opportunity to access the service in 1st year and continue right through until 6th year. Any remaining instructors' time is then deployed in primary schools where, again, the emphasis is on a fair distribution and delivery of instruction amongst the feeding primary schools of each secondary.

Upon selection, successful pupils commence their tuition usually in the form of small group lessons. Experience has shown that this generally proved to be the best policy for beginners. Receiving tuition with their friends helps to make the pupils feel more relaxed and gives them the opportunity of both solo and ensemble playing within their lessons from the very start.

In the initial stages of tuition, it is widely accepted that group tuition is more beneficial than one-to-one teaching.

Your child will then continue to receive well structured, pre-planned instrumental lessons with professional calculated attainment targets.

After a very short period, pupils will be ready to attend one of the Perth and Kinross Central Groups (see page 8). **It is also the expectation that pupils will join their school band.** These ensembles, which have been carefully designed to run in conjunction with instrumental tuition in schools, can accommodate pupils at all levels from beginners to advanced and are an integral part of tuition.

Pupils receiving tuition will also enjoy being an active member of their school orchestras, ensembles and chamber groups, participating in Christmas Carol Concerts, Music Festivals, Perth Festival of the Arts and prize-givings. Occasionally professional bodies will visit the schools to give workshops and masterclasses.

The structuring of instrumental teaching in Perth and Kinross schools means that if your child gets the opportunity to receive lessons at primary school, they will usually be able to continue lessons with the same teacher through to the end of secondary school, incorporating all SQA and Associated Board music examinations if required. Pupils wishing to progress on to Music Colleges, e.g. Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, will be assisted (non-financial) with entrance exams and auditions. Parents will be responsible for Associated Board fees.

The overall standard of instrumental tuition is continuously monitored and assessed and is constantly being developed as a result of in-service training and inter-staff discussions.

Central Groups



Registration

Any pupil wishing to participate in any of the Central Group Activities should contact their instructor or the Music Service Department on Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk / 01738 477878.

Within a very short time of learning, instrumentalists will be able to participate in Central Groups. Participation in Central Groups should be seen as part of instrumental tuition and is regarded as an essential part of lessons.

Perth Youth Orchestra	}	Monday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Brass Band & Concert Band	}	Wednesday	6.00pm - 7.30pm
Guitar Ensemble & Wind Orchestra	}		
Senior Strings Orchestra & Junior String Orchestra	}		
Percussion Ensemble, Choir & Piping	}	Thursday	6.00pm - 7.30pm

The rehearsal period for Central Groups is October – end of March at the Music Centre, North Inch Community Campus, Perth.

For further information, please visit our Instrumental Music Service website www.pkcmusic.com or the Instrumental Music Service App.

These ensembles are coached weekly throughout the winter months by highly experienced tutors and conductors and perform at local concerts, highlighted at the end of the year by Annual Central Groups Concerts.

Perth Youth Orchestra is one of the oldest established youth orchestras in Scotland.

Music Camps

Pupils receiving instruction and/or attending Central Groups may also get the opportunity to attend the annual music camps. These residential courses are a unique mixture of hard work, musical creativity and fun, and for many who attend, it is the highlight of their academic year.

For further information, please visit our Instrumental Music Service website www.pkcmusic.com or the Instrumental Music Service App.

Instrumental Music Staff

Co-ordinator of Instrumental Services

Lynsey Paterson

Bagpipes

Graham Mulholland
Conner Pratt

Brass Department

Denise Crighton-Ward	- Trumpet*
Elaine Blackwood	- Trumpet*
Gordon Seith	- Trombone*
Rachel Whiteman	- Trumpet*
Scott Barker	- Trumpet*

** Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all Brass Instruments*

Guitar Department

Adam Bulley
Guy Bathgate
Owen Nicholson

Percussion Department

Guy Bathgate
Iona Crosby
Max Popp
Peter Murch

Piano Department

Alison Hogg
Liam O'Hare
Pamela McLennan



Pipe Band Drumming

Katy Scott

Singing

Joseph Whiteman
Pamela McLennan
Zoe Perman

String Department

Alison Hogg	-	Violin*
Audrey Mattner	-	Violin*
Esther Jack	-	Violin*
Iona Crosby	-	Double Bass*
Ilse McFarlane	-	Cello*
Jane Colvin	-	Cello*
Joelle Broad	-	Violin*
Joseph Whiteman	-	Violin*
Lorna McGovern	-	Violin*
Rachel Steele	-	Cello*
Sharon Doyle	-	Violin*



** Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all strings*

Woodwind Department

(Bassoon, Clarinet, Flute, Oboe & Saxophone)

Andrew Mann	-	Clarinet*
Dorothy Purcell	-	Clarinet*
Fran Barker	-	Clarinet*
James Steele	-	Saxophone*

** Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all Woodwind nstruments*

Music Service Information

Music Tuition

Due to Scottish Government funding, there will continue to be no charge for instrumental music lessons during 2025-26.

Central Groups

A Central Groups fee of £100.00 is applicable which allows pupils to attend multiple orchestras should they wish. Exemptions are available to parents on low income. The Perth & Kinross Music Foundation may also be able to provide assistance to costs. Further information regarding help with Central Groups fees is available via our online application link provided below.

[https://my.pkc.gov.uk/service/Reapply for music tuition or apply for central groups](https://my.pkc.gov.uk/service/Reapply%20for%20music%20tuition%20or%20apply%20for%20central%20groups). Please select "Continue without an account" on the login screen. Please do not login to your MyPKC account as the Central Groups application requires no login.

Instrumental Staff will always discuss the Central Group Provision with their pupils at the start of each new session.

Parents will receive notification of confirmation of application and rehearsal/concert dates for the forthcoming session prior to commencement of first rehearsal.

Music Camps

Application forms for Music Camps will be issued to Central Groups pupils, in the first instance, after commencement of these groups. Places will be opened to all pupils should there still be spaces available nearer the camp dates. Costs will be confirmed early in the new session.

Note – To enable your child to attend Music Camps, full payment must be received prior to attending camp.

There will be a charge for participation in these music camps, but subsidised places are available through the Young Musicians' Parents' Association (YMPA). Criteria for funding will be included in the camp invitation correspondence.

Instrumental Tuition and Central Groups Terms and Conditions of Acceptance

Your child being offered instrumental tuition under the Perth & Kinross Council scheme is subject to acceptance of the following conditions by the parent/guardian concerned:

1. An online application **must** be submitted for each pupil who wishes to access the Instrumental Music Service. Lessons will not be provided to pupils if no application has been received.
2. **It is strongly advised that pupils receiving tuition in school strive to attend one of the Central Groups, and school bands, as this is recognised as an integral part of tuition. ****

****Pupils will normally access Central Groups after their first year of instruction.**

3. Instruments on loan to pupils for instrumental tuition are provided on the understanding that reasonable care is exercised over their safekeeping. Parents are advised that in the event of evidence that reasonable care has not been exercised, they may be required to contribute towards the repair/replacement cost of damaged or lost instruments. Pupils/Parents should alert the relevant instructor of any repair required on an authority instrument. The instructor will then arrange for the instrument to be repaired through the Perth and Kinross Instrument Repair Service. **Under no circumstances should any repair on a Perth and Kinross instrument be carried out privately.** Parents are encouraged to take out insurance on Perth and Kinross instruments. In most cases, normal house contents insurance is adequate to cover any damages.
4. If recommended by the tutor, the parent or guardian concerned may be asked to consider providing the pupil with his or her own instrument. The Council accepts no liability for any costs incurred in acquiring an instrument. In most cases, parents will be able to purchase a new instrument through the Perth and Kinross Instrument Purchase Scheme, which allows the pupil to buy an instrument without paying VAT. Full details regarding this scheme are available from all school administrators and instrumental music staff.
5. **If a pupil wishes to withdraw from lessons, written notice must be given to their instructor or emailed to the Instrumental Music Service on Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk.**
6. **If a pupil wishes to withdraw from Central Groups, written notice must be emailed to the Instrumental Music Service on Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk.**
7. Communication. Please note information will be disseminated to parents and our main source of communication will be delivered via our Instrumental Music Service App. We strongly recommend all parents download this App. Please see below for download instructions.



Please download the Instrumental Music Service app by scanning the QR code above or search "School App for Parents" in the Apple or Google Play app stores and search "Perth and Kinross Instrumental Music Service"

8. Lessons may be delivered on a blended basis of face to face and some digital lessons.

Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk

www.pkcmusic.com

Facebook – [PKC Music Service](#)

Information for parents

Lessons in primary school will normally take place at the same time each week.

In secondary school, your child will be withdrawn from their subject classes on a rota basis. The Authority will endeavor to ensure that your child does not regularly miss any one subject.

Upon commencement, lessons will usually be delivered on a weekly basis and are timetabled for between 15 and 40 minutes (dependent on child's age, group activities within school time etc) during which time, your child may be taught in a small group of no more than 8 pupils. The majority of these lessons will be delivered in the first three terms, August 2025 – April 2026. There will still be tuition delivered as much as possible in the Summer term however, Instructors may be in attendance at residential music courses and the annual Instrumental Music Service Engagement week that are held in the final term.

Should your child's lessons be affected by prolonged instructor absence, cover will be provided by the Authority.

In normal circumstances, pupils will be allowed the opportunity to access instruction on one instrument only. However, in certain circumstances, access to learning a second instrument may occasionally be available, subject to Instructor availability.

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this prospectus in another language or format, this can be arranged by contacting the Instrumental Music Service on 01738 477878.
