

Prospectus and Terms and Conditions

for



Instrumental Tuition *and* Central Groups

Foreword

Throughout Scotland, the second half of the twentieth century has witnessed a substantial growth in instrumental music provision in schools.

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

As well as the benefits available to the individual pupil, there has been a growth in instrumental ensembles in school, regional and national youth orchestras and bands offering further musical opportunities.

Instrumental music education, both formal and informal, is recognised in 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.

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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 profile of the school.
- Instrumental music prepares pupils to make a meaningful contribution towards the artistic life of their community.

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

The majority of 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.

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

Registration and selection procedures

Any pupil interested in receiving tuition should register online. A link to register will be available from August 2019.

Applicants will be assessed for suitability towards learning an instrument (involving tests in pitch, rhythm and other musical attributes). Successful applicants will be notified and issued with a link to complete an online application, provided:

- parents do not have outstanding Perth & Kinross sales ledger debt and have not arranged a repayment plan
- parents are exempt from charges (see page 9 for charging exemptions)
- parents have made an application to Perth & Kinross Music Foundation (PKMF) for funding for 2019/20 music tuition fees.

Tuition will only commence on receipt of the completed form.

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 1 – 6 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, the 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 7). 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 the service.

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 exam 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.

There is an ensemble for all instrumentalists to participate in from beginner's right up to advanced players.

Perth Youth Orchestra	}	Monday	6.00–8.15pm
Elementary & Junior String Orchestra	}	Wednesday	6.00-7.00pm
Junior Brass Band & Guitar Ensemble	}		
Senior Strings & Percussion Ensemble	}	Thursday	6.00–7.30pm
Choir & Piping	}		
Wind Ensemble & Concert Band	}	Friday	6.00–7.30pm
Wind Orchestra & Brass Band	}		

All rehearsals take place from September/October 2019 – March 2020 throughout the winter at the Music Centre, North Inch Community Campus.

Please visit our Instrumental Music Service website for further information: www.pkcmusic.com

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.

Members of Perth Youth Orchestra, one of the oldest established youth orchestras in Scotland, enjoy touring parts of Europe, usually every three years.

Music Camps

Pupils receiving instruction within the school system also get the chance to attend the annual Junior, Intermediate and Senior 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

Instrumental Music Staff

Co-ordinator of Instrumental Services

Allan R Young

Brass Department

Scott Barker	-	Trumpet*
Elaine Stewart	-	Trumpet*
Gordon Seith	-	Trombone*
William McMullan	-	Trombone*
Rachel Hotchkiss	-	Trumpet*

* Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all Brass Instruments

Woodwind Department
(Bassoon, Clarinet, Flute, Oboe & Saxophone)

Philip Alexander	- Clarinet*
Andrew Mann	- Clarinet*
Leon Thorne	- Saxophone*
Laura Young	- Oboe*
Fran Barker	- Clarinet*

* Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all Woodwind Instruments

Piano Department

Liam O'Hare
Alison Hogg
Maureen Rutherford
Pamela McLennan



Bagpipes

Graham Mulholland

Guitar Department

Owen Nicholson
Gordon Baillie
Adam Bulley



Percussion Department

Lynsey Paterson
Max Popp

Singing

Zoe Perman
Pamela McLennan
Joseph Whiteman

String Department

Alison Hogg	-	Violin*
Lorna McGovern	-	Violin*
Patrick Smyth	-	Double Bass*
Jill Smyth	-	Double Bass*
Esther Jack	-	Violin*
Sharon Doyle	-	Violin*
Sarah Oxnard	-	Cello*
Audrey Mattner	-	Violin*
Jane Colvin	-	Cello*
Morag Dalton	-	Violin*
Ilse McFarlane	-	Cello*

* Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all strings

Charges for 2019-20

Music Tuition

The charge for School-based Tuition is set at £295.00 per annum (minimum 30 lessons in the academic year). Please note, this is not applicable to pupils receiving free tuition funded by the Youth Music Initiative (YMI).

The minimum of 30 lessons can still be achieved if lessons start by w/b 4 November 2019. Thereafter, payment will be charged on a pro-rata basis. Please note, this is not applicable to pupils receiving free tuition funded by the Youth Music Initiative (YMI).

If your child received less than 30 lessons in any session due to instructor absence, any reduction for less than 30 lessons will be on a pro rata basis and may only be claimed after the session is complete. The majority of these lessons will be delivered in the first three terms, August 2019 – April 2020. There will still be tuition delivered as much as possible in the Summer term however, Instructors will be in attendance at the residential music courses and the annual Instrumental Music Service Engagement week that are held in the final term. Please note, this is not applicable to pupils receiving free tuition funded by the Youth Music Initiative (YMI).

If paying by Direct Debit (October 2019 to June 2020) the application should be completed by 23 August 2019 to spread the cost over 9 months. Any applications received after this date will have payments spread over fewer months. An invoice will be emailed to you detailing payment dates and amounts. Please do not cancel previous direct debit instruction as this may lead to you being unable to pay by direct debit in the future.

Exemptions

Current exemptions from school based tuition charges include:-

- Eligibility for Free School Meals
- Eligibility for Free School Meals but do not apply (supported with relevant evidence of associated benefits)
- Pupils engaged in SQA music courses (year of presentation only)
- Youth Music Initiative (YMI) funded music places
- Pupils new to IMS in 2019/20 who are not eligible for FSMs but are in receipt of an occupied council tax reduction based on household income (proof of benefit will be required)
- Pupils who are in their 2nd year of Assisted Place Tuition
- Confirmation of Perth and Kinross Music Foundation (PKMF) funding (one instrument only)

Central Groups

The charge for Central Group activities is set at **£97.25** per annum.

Exemptions

Current exemptions from central group charges include:-

- Eligibility for Free School Meals
- Eligibility for Free School Meals but do not apply (supported with relevant evidence of associated benefits)
- Pupils who are in their 2nd year of Assisted Place Tuition
- Confirmation of Perth and Kinross Music Foundation (PKMF) funding

PAYMENTS

Payments for school based music tuition and central groups can be made by:

- Debit/credit card payment online whilst completing application form.
- Direct Debit (*Note – direct debits will be paid from October 2019 to June 2020 subject to application forms being submitted by 23 August 2019. Applications received after this date will reduce the number of months available to pay fees. Direct Debits for new pupils will begin once the assessment process is completed and an application form is submitted. This may reduce the number of months available to pay fees*).
- Invoice (*payable within 28 days from the date of the invoice*).

Proof of benefits will be required.

- Pupils currently engaged in SQA music courses will be exempt from school-based tuition charge in year of presentation only.
- Payments can be made:
 - **Online whilst completing application form.**
 - By completing a Direct Debit Form (*Note – direct debits will be paid from October 2019 to June 2020 subject to application forms being submitted by 23 August 2019. Applications received after this date will reduce the number of months available to pay fees. Direct Debits for new pupils will begin once the assessment process is completed and an application form is submitted. This may reduce the number of months available to pay fees.*
- Invoice payable within 28 days from the date of the invoice.

Music Camps

Application forms for Music Camps will be issued to Central Groups pupils in the first instance in January 2020. Places will be opened out to all pupils should there be spaces available nearer the camp dates. Costs will be confirmed early in the new session.

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

Exemptions

The only exemption from music camp fees includes:-

- Pupils who are in their 2nd year of Assisted Place Tuition

However, pupils whose parents/guardians are in receipt of Employment Support Allowance, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit (where your monthly earned income is not more than £610) may be eligible for a 50% reduction from Young Musicians' Parents' Association subject to the continued funding from this support organisation.

Instrumental Tuition and Central Groups

Terms and Conditions of Acceptance

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

- 1 No tuition can be agreed if the parent/guardian has outstanding Perth & Kinross Council sales debt and are not on a repayment plan unless they are exempt from charges or have made an application to Perth & Kinross Music Foundation (PKMF) for funding for 2019/20 music tuition fees.
- 2 Any changes in circumstances during the session (including SQA cessation) must be notified and a charge may be levied/reduced where appropriate.
- 3 An online application **must** be submitted for each pupil who wishes to access the Instrumental Music Service. Services **will not** be provided to pupils if no application has been received.
- 4 Any pupil commencing instrumental tuition in any session (school year) will be expected to continue throughout that session (school year), and Perth & Kinross Council will levy a charge on that basis. For pupils entering tuition during the second, third or fourth term of any session (school year), a pro rata charge is made for the remaining part of that session (school year). Please note, the minimum of 30 lessons can still be achieved if lessons start by w/b 4 November 2019. Lessons missed by a pupil taking part in a school activity are counted towards the 30 lessons.
- 5 The tuition charge will be as determined by the Council. Perth & Kinross Council reserves the right to alter these charges as necessary, but any alterations made will not normally become operative until the start of the following session.
- 6 The tuition fee for a session (school year), or any instalment thereof, is not refundable save in exceptional circumstances of which the Education Authority shall be the sole judge when the Education Authority may in their sole discretion refund a tuition fee, or any instalment thereof, in whole or in part. **If a pupil withdraws from music tuition, the parent will be liable for charges until the end of term.**
- 7 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 the 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. Please note, parents may be asked to purchase additional items such as tuition books, reeds, rosin and spare strings etc. **Your child's Instructor will advise accordingly.**
- 8 The parent or guardian concerned, if so recommended by the tutor, 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.
- 9 Details of charges and exemptions for the 2019/20 session are included on page 9 of this booklet.
- 10 It should be noted that instalments are not 'term fees' and the parent/guardian will be liable for the fee balance outstanding if the pupil discontinues tuition during the session (school year). Reminders are not issued when a payment is due. When a fee is not paid by the payment date, tuition will be discontinued.

11 If a pupil wishes to withdraw from music tuition written notice must be given to the music instructor. The parent/guardian will be liable for any charges until the end of the term in which notice is received. Failure to give written notice may result in charges to the end of the school year.

12 If a pupil wishes to withdraw from Central Groups, written notice must be given to the Orchestra Conductor. The parent/guardian will be liable for any charges until the end of the term in which notice is received. Failure to give written notice may result in charges to the end of the Central Groups session.

Information for parents

Lessons in primary school will normally take place at the same time each week. Lessons missed by a pupil taking part in a school activity are chargeable (count towards the minimum 30 lessons). Please note this is not applicable to pupils receiving free tuition funded by the Youth Music Initiative (YMI).

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

Where possible, we will try to provide your child with a minimum of 30 lessons (either group or individual) per session and to ensure that each lesson is 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 2019 – April 2020. There will still be tuition delivered as much as possible in the Summer term however, Instructors will be in attendance at the residential music courses and the annual Instrumental Music Service Engagement week that are held in the final term. Please note this is not applicable to pupils receiving free tuition funded by the Youth Music Initiative (YMI).

A minimum of 20 central group sessions will be timetabled as central group provisions.

Should your child's lessons be affected by prolonged instructor absence, cover will be provided by the Authority. You will be entitled to a reduction in charges for the following reason only:

If your child received less than 30 lessons in any session due to instructor absence, any reduction for less than 30 lessons will be on a pro rata basis and may only be claimed after the session is complete.

Exemptions from payment are as detailed on the relevant application form. Further to some enquiries from parents regarding modular courses, it is confirmed that such courses are accredited by SQA and therefore any pupil taking an SQA accredited modular course is exempt from charges for the duration of the course in year of presentation only.

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. Please note, tuition on additional instruments will incur the standard charges.

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.