

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

SOLIHULL MUSIC SERVICE

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF BEGINNER PUPILS

Tuition is provided by Solihull Music Service, which is based at the Lyndon Music Centre. Tuition in primary schools is given on a weekly basis normally over 33 weeks of the school year. The choice of lessons varies from school to school (see list of availability), and there is a guide to the recommended year in which tuition will be offered.

The Solihull Music Service sets out to give each student a new experience involving learning skills which we hope will benefit them in their future music-making.

Instruments are usually provided by parents, but some instruments may be available for loan from the school or Authority. It is expected that children who borrow an instrument will eventually buy their own. It is therefore important that parents are aware of the cost implication before they involve their child in any selection procedure. A guide to the actual cost of a specific instrument can be obtained from the Music Service. Second-hand instruments could also be considered.

Selection for most children will take place during the second half of the summer term prior to the recommended start of lessons in September.

Ideally it would be wonderful if tuition could be offered to every student who showed an interest, but as this is not possible some form of assessment and selection must take place. It is important not only to make sure that a pupil has a strong interest in the instrument he/she wishes to learn, but also that the pupil is physically able to perform on that instrument. The assessment also looks for musical aptitude and a sense of pitch and rhythm.

Final details of selection will be sent out before the end of term, inviting parents to an Open Evening appropriate to the instrument chosen. This will give parents an opportunity to meet teaching staff, and to discuss methods of purchase. Retailers are invited to these meetings.

For the academic year 2014/2015 the Open Evenings will take place on -

Wednesday 16th July	Strings 7.15 p.m. Guitar 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 17th July	Brass, Woodwind 7.15 p.m. Keyboard and Percussion 8.00 p.m.

Please note these dates in your diary now.

The meetings will take place at the Lyndon Music Centre, unless your child's school has arranged its own individual meeting.

- Lessons** will be timetabled weekly during normal school hours. This is a new routine which children have to get used to: you, as parents, will need to give your child support.
- Practice** is another **essential** routine which needs to be supervised regularly. Again you will need to give your child every encouragement. Learning an instrument is not easy: it is a skill-based activity which needs regular daily practice. There will be times when the student will lose interest. However, it is expected that every beginner pupil **will** continue lessons for the first year unless, due to exceptional circumstances, the teacher recommends that a child gives up.
- Hidden Costs** are in the form of accessories such as spare strings, reeds and valve oil. Tutor books and other music will also be required. A music stand at home will help your child in his/her practice.
- The Future** It is hoped that a majority of children will continue their lessons at secondary School. As students progress they will be asked to join a school or Borough ensemble. This is warmly recommended as a natural development of the tuition programme. Naturally being a member of a group will become an additional commitment, but the educational and social value of any such membership cannot be over-emphasised.

If you have any queries that are not answered on this sheet, please contact -

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Email: messages@solmus.solgrid.org.uk

Office hours are 9.30 a.m. until 7.00 p.m., and there is an answer phone for out-of-hours messages.