



Wigan♥
Council



Your child has been learning about the benefits of learning to play a musical instrument. We hope that they have been inspired to give it a go for themselves!

We know that children and families are already very busy and that for some, the cost of lessons is a concern. That's why we provide lessons in school and at a really affordable price. We've been working with almost every school in the borough for over 25 years! We are Wigan Council's Music Service and **we are passionate about music education and how it can benefit your child.**

Which Instrument and how much does it cost?

We provide tuition on almost every musical instrument!

- Orchestral Strings (*violin, viola, cello, double bass*)
- Brass (*trumpet, trombone, cornet, tenor horn, French horn, euphonium, baritone, tuba*)
- Woodwind (*flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon*)
- Recorder
- Orchestral Percussion (*snare drum, xylophone*)
- Piano/Keyboard
- Guitar
- Voice
- Drum Kit (*available where a kit is available in school*)

Good to know...

- You are never too old to start to learn to play but children in KS1 (*infants*) are generally too young for most instruments.
- Usually, lessons take place during the school day at times agreed with school.
- Most beginner pupils learn to play in groups of two or three pupils but you can pay more for an individual lesson if you want to.
- Costs can vary a little from school to school, but it's normally in the region of **£6.99 per week for a group lesson**
- Need help with the cost of lessons? If you are in circumstances of hardship, our Assisted Tuition Scheme might be able to help.



You don't need to buy an instrument!

The cheapest instruments bought online are often not suitable to start lessons on and we strongly advise that you hire an instrument to begin with. Our instruments are not brand new, but they are good quality and are carefully selected by our teachers to ensure that they give your child the best possible start. **We can't hire out electronic keyboards, pianos or drum kits** (you will have to make your own arrangements for these) but for everything else, we are here to help.

If you have decided that you are going to purchase your own musical instrument from a high street retailer or online, please call us for free advice before going ahead.

It costs from as little as £50 per year to hire an instrument from Wigan Music Service (*that's just 95p per week!*).

For full details, visit www.wigan.gov.uk/musicservice and follow the link to Musical Instrument Hire. You'll find everything you need to know right there including information about our Assisted Purchase Scheme which can help you if you do wish to purchase your own instrument.

When should I arrange my instrument hire?

You may already know the name of the instrument your child is going to learn in September. For example, if they may have been learning in one of our whole class projects in school, they may have decided that they definitely want to continue with the trumpet or they may be certain they are going to swap to the violin! If this is the case, you can organise your free term of instrument hire right away.

OR

If your child doesn't yet know which specific instrument from a chosen family (brass, strings, woodwind, guitar, keyboard, percussion) is best for them, it's fine to wait until September. Just make sure you sign up for lessons using the form below. The first lesson in September is often used as a chance to experiment with different instruments supported by the teacher and to find the best fit for your child. They will come home from this first lesson with an advice slip to confirm the instrument you need to hire.

Whether at the end of the summer term or in September, once you know the name of the instrument you need, simply call us on 01942 776169 to reserve your instrument and arrange collection from our centre in Hindley.

Ready to give it a go? Great...

- Complete the reply form below and return to your **school office** within seven days. School will contact you once the lessons have been scheduled (*this might be at the beginning of a new term if you are signing up before the school holidays*).
- School will take responsibility for the collection of lesson fees and will communicate with you about payment arrangements. You will deal directly with the music service if you require instrument hire.

Any questions?

Speak to school about the specific organisation of lessons in your child's school (every school is different).

Visit: www.wigan.gov.uk/musicservice for more information about Wigan Council Music Service including our latest instrument hire scheme information **Call us on 01942 776169** for any queries about instrument hire.



Request for instrumental music lessons - Reply Slip

Child's name _____

Class _____

Please indicate below the instrument / instrument family of your choice:

Violin / Viola		Voice	
Brass		Drums / Percussion	
Woodwind		Piano / Keyboard	
Cello/Double Bass		Guitar	
I wish to enrol my child for weekly small group instrumental lessons (£6.99)			
I wish to enrol my child for a weekly individual 20 min lesson (£13.98)			
I wish to enrol my child for a weekly individual 30 min lesson (£20.97)			

I understand that I will pay school directly for the cost of the lessons. School will request this payment from me. If I wish to hire an instrument, I understand that, I will be required to arrange this directly with Wigan Music Service collect it from the Music Centre in Hindley.

Signature Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL OFFICE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS