

Information for Parents

Name of Instrumental Teacher: Mrs J Foster

We are delighted that your child has decided to learn an instrument with Lincolnshire Music Service (LMS) and hope you will find the following information helpful.

1 THE AGREEMENT

Schools contract with the music service to provide instrumental music tuition and will normally pass on the cost of lessons to parents. Please note that your agreement is with the school and any financial queries should normally be directed to the school in the first instance.

2 HIRE OF INSTRUMENTS

If your child is issued with a county instrument, you may be asked to sign a form accepting responsibility for maintenance through normal wear and tear.

LMS will charge the school for the hire of county instruments and schools will normally pass on these charges to parents:

Woodwind & Brass Instruments

£25 per academic year

String Instruments

£12 per academic year

Please note there are no refunds in the event of early return.

An instrument on hire from LMS should be used only for lessons with a Lincolnshire Music Service teacher. Please do not attempt DIY repairs; always refer them to the Instrumental Teacher.

The hire charge includes instrument insurance

(Standard exclusions apply including, for example, riot, civil war and negligence)
Any loss or theft must be reported to the local police and an incident number will be required. Full details are available on our website.

3 TUITION

Each school is responsible for formulating a policy on charges and remission of fees for instrumental tuition. Lessons are timetabled during normal school hours and, in

secondary schools, lesson times are usually rotated each week to minimise disruption to lessons.

4 REMISSION OF FEES

In some circumstances, the school can claim remission of fees through the music service. Lincolnshire Music Service offers remission for students entitled to Free School Meals and Looked After Children.

3 PRACTISE

Pupils who practise regularly generally make better progress. “Little and often” is better than infrequent longer sessions, particularly for beginners who will tend to tire quickly. Parents can help by offering encouragement and, if possible, providing a suitable room to practise without interruption, ideally at a set time each day.

4 PERFORMANCE

We hope that every pupil will feel confident to perform – initially on an informal basis to family and friends and later, in front of fellow pupils and others. It is very important that you support these occasions wholeheartedly.

5 EXAMINATIONS

When the time is right, for many pupils, entering for an examination can help by providing a goal to aim for and the stimulation to practise regularly. They are not an essential ingredient to success on an instrument. Parents are responsible for examination fees and for arranging to get the candidate to the examination centre. Most examinations require a piano accompanist and there may be an additional cost for this so please check before you enter.

6 PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT

If you decide to purchase an instrument, please seek the advice of the instrumental teacher before committing to buy. A quality instrument represents a good investment but you will need to pay more for a reputable brand.

Lincolnshire Music Service pupils can take advantage of the Assisted Purchase Scheme which enables you to buy an instrument VAT free subject to meeting all the necessary criteria. Either the school or the Music Service will need to process your payment, place the order and accept delivery of the instrument. You should not pay

the retailer directly or take away the instrument from the shop. Full details are available on our website.

7 ENSEMBLES

School music staff will expect pupils who receive instrumental lessons to take part in school groups. In addition, Lincolnshire Music Service offers a range of activities at local music centres which will help support and extend your child's musical development.

For the more advanced students, there are a number of county ensembles that provide the opportunity to experience performing challenging repertoire.

Please see our website for further details: www.lincsmusicservice.org

8 PRIVATE LESSONS

We would strongly recommend that a pupil receiving lessons from a Lincolnshire Music Service teacher should not have extra lessons from another teacher on the same instrument. Being taught by two teachers is likely to lead to confusion, particularly in the early stages.

9 FEEDBACK

We aim to provide a high quality service and always welcome your comments. Please contact the instrumental teacher, Area Manager or the Head of Service as you feel appropriate.

* References to instrumental tuition includes singing throughout this document