




# Dundee Instrumental Music Service



## Instrumental Instruction in Dundee


Dundee City Council is committed to providing a comprehensive programme in the Arts.

Part of that programme offers pupils opportunities to learn to play musical instruments and to take part in a variety of musical activities. 

This leaflet highlights the benefits of learning to play and why you should consider your child learning a musical instrument.

### Making Music

Music is one of life's great pleasures. It is also a wonderful part of growing up. Music is a unique and happy way to learn some of life's biggest lessons.

Your child will appreciate the chance to participate in the world of music now and for years to come. Learning to play an instrument is exciting and is part of a great musical tradition. It is the beginning of a musical education with a lifetime of benefits. 

### Making Friends

Young musicians are a special group of people. They work together as a team, they are proud of each other and proud of themselves. There is plenty of opportunity to make new friends.



Playing an instrument also offers the chance to be creative and to discover and explore new talents. It builds confidence in meeting challenges. Successes made in music bring great rewards.

Everyone plays an important part in a concert. Each instrument adds a special 'voice'. Each player adds to the quality of the group. Together, they bring the music to life.

### Those Special Moments

From your child's first appearance as a performer in the school concert, to walking on the stage of the Caird Hall with a Music Centre group, this is the chance to show parents and friends the results of practice and progress while entertaining them with great sounds.



#### For more information please contact:

Head of the Instrumental Music Service  
Kenny Christie  
Education Support Officer  
Arts and Culture  
t 01382 433132  
e [kenny.christie@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:kenny.christie@dundeecity.gov.uk)





## A Musician in the Family

Providing an opportunity in music is one of the best and most enduring things you can do for your child.

It is something you can share from those first, faltering notes, to playing music by the masters, to creating music through the ability to play an instrument well.

Whatever music is now or becomes for your child, learning to play an instrument and participating in orchestras and bands will offer a valued experience, a lifelong pleasure and a lot of fun.

## Music in Dundee

Dundee has a team of 25 specialist instructors who, between them, offer lessons in all band and orchestra instruments, guitar, piano and bagpipes. Every school in Dundee has tuition in at least one of these disciplines.

Children in Dundee have at least two opportunities during their school careers to join the instrumental programme.

Many children however, join the programme at different stages. Lessons are often given to groups of pupils so that they can learn and have fun alongside their friends.

All schools in Dundee have music ensembles which play at assemblies, concerts, social events in school and often in the community.

In addition there are city-wide orchestras and bands. These groups meet in the Music Centre in Bell Street from September to March. When your child is ready he/she will have the opportunity to join one of these groups.

## What do parents/carers have to do?

First of all you should watch out for information coming from your child's school regarding vacancies for would-be instrumentalists. Then you should follow the instructions given to help get your child started.

Once your child has commenced instruction you should take an active part in making sure that they practise regularly and they go to the school band or orchestra at the Music Centre when required.

For further information about any of the above please contact your child's school in the first instance.

*"Music has a great power for bringing people together. With so many forces in this world acting to drive wedges between people, it is important to preserve those things that help us experience our common humanity."*

- Ted Turner, Turner Broadcasting System



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How often are the lessons?**

**A:** Lessons are given once a week.

**Q: Where and when are the lessons given?**

**A:** They are given in school during the school day.

**Q: Are they are the same time each week?**

**A:** In primary school yes, in secondary schools no. We operate a rota system to avoid missing the same subject every week.

**Q: Will my child get individual lessons?**

**A:** Lessons are normally delivered to groups of pupils, particularly in the early stages of learning. Experience shows that lessons are more enjoyable and progress faster if pupils share the experience with their friends.

**Q: Are the lessons free?**

**A:** Lessons are free for pupils during the initial trial period. They are also free for pupils who are studying music for SQA qualifications. They are also free for families whose income is less than £15,860 per year. In all other cases there is a fee for lessons and instrument hire.

**Q: How do I claim the free lessons?**

**A:** You will be sent a contract with all the details on it, included in the contract is a section which tells you about claiming free lessons. If you are eligible, simply fill in this section, sign and return the contract.