



WILDRIDINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Instrument Teaching Policy

Headteacher	Mr Brent Ellis
Chair of the Governing Body	Mr Oli Rock

Approved by FGB	25 th June 2026
Next Review	June 2029

Background

Wildridings Primary School aims to offer a wide range of instrumental lessons. Peripatetic instrumental teachers make an important contribution to supporting music at the school. It is the aim of the school to offer the opportunity to learn a musical instrument to all interested children. This policy explains the school provision of instrumental tuition for children.

General policy

Instrumental lessons are currently available in violin and cello through the Berkshire Music Service. School liaises between parents and Berkshire Music Service in order to identify availability, timings, and other practical issues, but the cost is met directly by the parents. Lessons last approximately 30 minutes on a one-to-one/small group basis. Tuition in other instruments and by private tutors may also be provided on request and where a teacher is able to be sourced. The arrangements for use of an instrument is determined by the provider and parents.

Most lessons take place in the Peripatetic Music Room on a rota basis, timetabled for weekly tuition. Children receiving instrumental tuition can be asked to participate in performances to the rest of the school and parents during the school year. Opportunities for other performances, such as cluster or county Music Festivals, will also be explored by the school when they arise.

Pupils may be entered for Associated Board Exams, (or equivalent), and the school will acknowledge their successes. The charge for examination entrance may vary, (fees are published on the examination board websites), and the cost of the entrance fee is to be paid directly by the parent.

Peripatetic teachers regularly liaise with parents as to the progress made in these lessons and emails are often used to communicate with parents. Parents are able to contact these private teachers directly through agreed communication channels.

Instrument Tuition Charges

Progress on an instrument can only be made through regular attendance of lessons and frequent practice. All instrumental staff will keep an attendance register and pupils will be asked about unexplained absence.

Payment for lessons is organised directly with the Berkshire Music Service or each private peripatetic teacher. The school does not involve itself in identifying the appropriate cost for each lesson or any payments or non-payments, however through the Berkshire Music Service specific pricing models may be chose to suit the needs of the school. It is the responsibility of the Berkshire Music Service or private peripatetic teachers to carry out any debt collection or book-keeping.

Charging and terms and conditions for all instrumental lessons are organised directly by the company or the individual teacher of that instrument and do not involve the school.

All peripatetic teachers who work within Wildridings Primary School share their DBS information with school and are categorised as a 'contractor' (for the purposes of the Single Central Record) and adhere to all safeguarding expectations and conduct in line with this role, which are shared at the start of each academic year, (or when taking up the role).

Entitlement to Peripatetic Instrumental Tuition

The school is aware of and keenly supports the principle of equality of opportunity. Therefore, no child is denied the chance of learning a musical instrument. However, the process of providing any child with instrumental lessons is dependent of the following:

- The opinion of the instrumental teacher concerned, that the child satisfies the physical criteria (reach, dental development etc) and that they show aptitude for the chosen instrument.
- The child has previously shown an interest in music

- The child and their families are willing to take full advantage of the opportunity by undertaking a serious and genuine commitment to regular lesson attendance and to regular practice at home in accordance with the content and time recommended by the teacher
- The family agrees to undertake to pay the agreed charges (including when reduced)

Children who are already learning an instrument will be given priority over any children transferring to the school. In addition to this, it is at the discretion of the school but it might be deemed suitable to support the costs of music tuition for pupils in receipt of free school meals using Pupil Premium funding.

The Weekly newsletter will remind parents of the opportunity to book instrumental lessons for their child/children together with aim to raise the profile of music and instrumental teaching.

Children who express a genuine interest in learning are given lessons subject to the following:

- Parent/Carer letter of consent is received.
- Lessons being subject to availability of the teacher and/or instrument. Children may therefore be added to a waiting list.

Details of hours taught by peripatetic teachers, the days on which lessons take place, cost of lessons, numbers of children learning and lesson duration are flexible, but up to date information relating to this is always available from the School Office.