

TERMS & CONDITIONS

for instrumental & vocal lessons

1. Lessons normally take place in school during the school day between 9.00am -3.30pm
2. Unless you have started/paid part way through the term, you will be invoiced for 10 lessons per term
3. You will receive an invoice for 10 lessons in advance for the next term. To ensure your child's place is not allocated to someone else on our long waiting list, please ensure prompt payment
4. Lessons will normally start in the second or third week of term. Teachers should contact you and the schools directly to inform them of the days of lessons
5. All children learning an instrument must have their own instruments to practise at home. Please contact HMS or your school music lead if this is a problem
6. Children should not receive lessons from more than one teacher due to the possible conflict of approach. In such cases, HMS reserves the right to cancel lessons
7. Many instruments can be hired from the service unless parents/carers choose to buy their own. See below for current hire costs. Please contact the service to arrange hire
8. Violin, viola and cello pupils should attend the Music Service Headquarters to be measured for the right size instrument. To ensure we can properly attend to your needs, it is important to make an appointment before visiting us.
9. For further information on eligibility for reduction in tuition and instrument hire fees, please contact the office
10. The teacher requires at least 3 weeks' written notice of any absence. Where such notice has been given the teacher will either make up the missed lesson or you will be credited at the end of term
11. If 3 weeks' notice is not given (for example in the case of child's illness) the teacher will invoice for the time and is not obliged to make up the lesson. School trips and exams can cause problems, please inform your teacher of any likely clashes with lessons. If a child is going to be absent from school on the day of their instrumental or vocal lesson
12. We also require 3 weeks' notice if you wish to discontinue lessons
13. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer trial lessons and can only offer them in block bookings
14. Every child will receive a Pupil Progress Book. This is the best means of communication between you and the teacher and should contain an accurate record of teacher and pupil attendance. Our teachers really appreciate constructive feedback on how practice is going at home

Instrument	Price per term as of September 2024 (prices in brackets reduced fee)
Violin/Viola/Sax	£25.00 (£12.50)
Cello	£28.00 (£14.00)
Clarinet, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba & Double Bass.	£38.00 (£19.00)
Drum-kits & guitars	Not available for hire but available through HMS via Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme
Keyboards	Subject to availability £25.00 (£12.50)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Where and when are the lessons?

A. Your child's instrumental teacher will liaise with parents/carers/schools regarding the days and times of lessons

Q. How much practice is needed?

A. Frequent and regular practice rather than infrequent, longer sessions will lead to more progression, especially in the early stages. 5 practice sessions of 10-15 minutes each week will achieve a lot more than 2 of 30 minutes. The physical and mental demands are considerable, particularly for younger children.

Q How can a parent/carer who feels they have no musical training help?

A. Encouragement and moral support are vital. Often your mere presence and positive comments while practising will be invaluable. Maintain contact with the instrumental teacher through the Pupil progress Book. Always try to attend any musical activity your child takes part in.

Q What do I do if something goes wrong with the instrument?

A. Most things that go wrong even if apparently disastrous are usually relatively minor. Contact the music service HMS@haringey.gov.uk who will be able to advise, repair or replace. However, it is important that children understand instruments are delicate and must always be handled with care and respect.

Q. How do I know if my child is making progress?

A. Check your child's progress book which should be regularly maintained by the teacher.

Q. Can we receive longer lessons?

A. where demand is high and to give as many pupils as possible access to lessons, we will offer 30 shared /paired lessons (30-minutes in a pair, or possibly 15 minutes on their own if the teacher judges this to be better or there is no child to share with.) Where there is less demand, you may be offered a 20 or 30-minute individual lesson. Contact the music service if you wish to change the lesson length.

HMS@haringey.gov.uk

Q. Can a child learn more than one instrument?

A. This very much depends on the time available to practise. It is also a good idea to wait until the first instrument is sufficiently established before starting a second one.

Q. What groups can my child join?

A. Music making together is a key part of learning an instrument and we would encourage your child to join one of our many ensembles. Please see our website for more details of the Young Musicians programme. [After-school music groups – Haringey Young Musicians | Haringey Council](#) (please right click to view) Occasional short courses are also available. Check to see if your child's school has a band, choir or orchestra.

Q. What if I have questions not listed here?

A. When in doubt, contact the music service office HMS@haringey.gov.uk . We will try to deal with your query or direct you to the appropriate person or organisation.