



SACRED HEART

Sacred Heart Catholic High School

Music Department

Instrumental and Singing Lessons at Sacred Heart

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS CRISIS, ALL INSTRUMENTAL AND SINGING LESSONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING DELIVERED ONLINE.

Here you will find details of the instrumental lessons we offer here at Sacred Heart.

Whether your daughter has already started to learn an instrument at primary school or would like to begin, we offer a variety of lessons on voice and other instruments.

Playing an instrument not only develops musical ability but provides students with many other transferable skills. Research has shown that music-making enhances ability in literacy and numeracy and strengthens communication skills. Your daughter will be invited to play in one of our school-based ensembles or to sing in one of our choirs, where she will develop invaluable teamwork skills and get the chance to perform in our regular school concerts.

We host ABRSM Practical Grade Music Examinations annually, and some teachers also offer alternative assessment routes (Rock School exams, London College of Music exams, etc.)

The Peripatetic Music Team

Here at Sacred Heart we have a dedicated team of singing and instrumental teachers who provide music lessons for our students during the school day. On average, around 210 students from Years 7-13 opt to have a weekly singing or musical instrument lesson.

We currently have a team of thirteen peripatetic instrumental/singing teachers. They are as follows:

Sue Belshaw	Woodwind and Brass
Jennifer Bland	Cello
Ron Brown	Junior Rock School
Simon Dawson	Guitar
Gail Davies-Fidler	Singing
Emma Dove	Singing
Sheila Harrison	Upper Strings
Alan Jones	Guitar and Bass Guitar

Gareth Miller	Piano/Keyboard
Steve Ramsey	Senior Rock School
Jonathan Trevor	Piano
Shirley Wilkinson	Singing
Franco Zuccaroli	Drums / Senior Rock School

Paying for Lessons

The lessons vary in price depending on instrument and type of lesson (individual, paired, group). Please see the table below for details of individual instruments and fees. All lessons are 30 minutes long.

Lesson fees are usually payable in advance at the start of each term. Your daughter's instrumental teacher will invoice you directly, except for drum students who are invoiced through the school.

Financial support may be available for students who are eligible for the Pupil Premium. If applicable, you will receive further information regarding this after returning the lesson request slip.

Instrument	Individual Lesson	Paired Lesson	Group Lesson (if enough students)	Teachers
Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone and Bassoon	£16.30	£9.75	£6.65	Mrs Belshaw
Singing	£16.00	£8.00	N/A	Mrs Davies-Fidler Mrs Dove Mrs Wilkinson
Guitar (Acoustic, Electric and Bass)	£15.00	£7.50	N/A	Mr Jones Mr Dawson
Trumpet	£16.30	£9.75	£6.65	Mrs Belshaw
Percussion / Drum Kit	£16.00	£8.00	£6.00	Mr Zuccaroli
Violin and Viola	£16.30	£9.75	£6.65	Miss Harrison
'Cello	£14.00	£8.00	£5.00	Miss Bland
Piano and Keyboard	£12.00	N/A	N/A	Mr Davies Mr Trevor Mr Miller

(Please note, most teachers require six weeks' notice in order to terminate lessons).

Practice Routines

Your daughter will need to practice her instrument regularly at home. As a beginner, your daughter should be aiming to practice for around 20 minutes every day.

Musical Instruments

Students need to have their own instrument on which to practice at home. In most cases they will bring their own instrument into school on their lesson day, and bring it back home with them after school.

- Woodwind and string instruments are available to hire at a small charge from NEMCO who provide our woodwind and string tuition.
- We have a small number of cellos, brass instruments and guitars which we may be able to loan to students if available.
- JG Windows in Newcastle operates a scheme where students can loan instruments over a number of months ('try before you buy') before committing to the purchase, which also allows instruments to be purchased in installments. See their website for the range of instruments available.
- Girls taking piano lessons will need to have access to a keyboard at home to practice on, but can use school keyboards and pianos for their lessons in school.

Lesson Timetables

All instrumental lessons are weekly and are timetabled by the instrumental or singing teacher, and not by Music Department staff. Timetables are published in advance and displayed on the notice board outside the Music Department Office. Students should ensure they write the time and day of their next lesson into their planner so they do not forget to attend.

The majority of peripatetic music lessons take place during the school day, meaning that students can miss short parts of their school lessons. Lessons are organised on a rota so that students do not miss the same lesson on a frequent basis.

All teachers at Sacred Heart are very supportive of our young musicians and their commitment to music lessons. Students are asked to make sure that they either inform their class teacher at the start of a lesson if they are due to attend an instrumental lesson, or to ask a classmate to let the subject teacher know if they will be arriving late. They should also ensure they catch up with any work they may have missed, including recording any homework that has been given out to the class.

It is a student's responsibility to re-organise their instrumental/singing lesson if they anticipate it clashing with an important school event (such as an important assessment or school trip). Students can arrange to swap lesson times with another student or, if this is not possible, should contact their instrumental teacher to make alternative arrangements. In most cases they will need to do this well in advance of the lesson. If no notice is given before missing a lesson then a refund will not usually be offered.

Registers and Attendance

Peripatetic staff keep a register of attendance for students. If a student misses a lesson with no prior notice, they will be issued with a 'lesson reminder slip' informing of the time and date of their next lesson.

Regular non-attendance to lessons will result in contact with parents, and persistent non-attenders will ultimately be removed from lesson timetables as, in many cases, there are waiting lists for places.

Signing-Up for Lessons

Students can collect a letter about instrumental lessons from the Music Office, which has a reply slip attached. Please complete and return the reply slip, indicating which instrument your daughter wishes to take lessons on. Your details will then be passed to the relevant instrumental teacher who will contact you to discuss the terms and conditions of lessons and make arrangements for tuition to begin.

The letter is also available for download [here](#).

Alternatively, please email music@shhs.org.uk to register your interest, stating your daughter's name and tutor group, the instrument she would like to learn and whether she has taken lessons previously.

Please note that some instruments have waiting lists for places, and places will be strictly allocated in order of application.