

# LEICESTERSHIRE MUSIC

## WELCOME TO LEICESTERSHIRE MUSIC

We are so pleased that you have chosen us to begin your child's musical journey.

## WHY CHOOSE TO PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

### MUSIC IS FUN!

Music making is known to: Encourage creativity, improve learning skills, improve motivation, help with teamwork, improve coordination and help with verbal skills.

## OUR LESSONS

Instrumental lessons are available on most instruments (subject to availability). We aim to deliver lessons throughout the academic year on a weekly basis. These may not be delivered on consecutive weeks due to staff training\*\*

For beginners we can offer group or 1:1 tuition. Group lessons have the advantage that children can learn alongside classmates and friends. As your child progresses, we encourage them to move to smaller group tuition or 1:1. Your child's progress will be assessed throughout their learning with weekly notes in their practise diary as well as a termly email from their teacher.

The teacher will advise you of what materials/tutor books are needed and where to purchase them. Please find enclosed a copy of our progression strategy that our teachers work to.

## INSTRUMENTS

Instrument hire is free for the first term, after that there is a small charge [www.leicestershiremusic.org/hire-instrument](http://www.leicestershiremusic.org/hire-instrument). Musical instruments are an expensive piece of equipment. They need to be looked after and you will have received an instrument care document before lessons start.

## WHO WILL TEACH MY CHILD?

Our team of instrumental teachers are qualified, experienced and passionate about music making. They are enthusiastic flexible and sensitive to your child's needs.

All have an enhanced DBS as well as safeguarding certification and ongoing training including GDPR and first aid.

## WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN?

In the beginning your child will be developing many new skills and multi-tasking on a grand scale. They will learn how to set up and care for their instrument, set it up for playing, hold it correctly and how to be able to make a sound; learn about posture and technique as well as finger patterns. You will have received one of our progression documents which outlines what will be taught and expected learning outcomes before lessons begin.

## PRACTISE

Learning a musical instrument requires a degree of practise.

## HOW LONG?

Our teachers will almost always suggest a little and often approach. Just 10 minutes practise 2 or 3 times a week can make a huge difference to progression and will help with muscle memory and developing physical strength.

## WHERE?

Ideally a room away from noise and distractions. A mirror would help so that they can see themselves and work on posture and hand positions.

## WHEN?

You know your child best. Perhaps in the morning before school or after homework after school. Any time where a routine can be developed.

## SUPPORT

Please try and be patient, supportive and encouraging.

Get involved. A good starting point is their practise diary.

Ask about what they are learning and ask questions.

Ask them if they would like to play for you. If you are unsure your child's teacher can be contacted by email to discuss this with you.

## Most importantly...

Don't force them to practise. Practise shouldn't be thought of as a punishment! Gentle encouragement is the way forward.

## Music Groups, Ensembles and Orchestras

As well as weekly lessons we offer a wide range of music groups, ensembles and orchestras that your child can join. From complete beginners to more advanced groups. There are also performance opportunities during the year including the De Montfort Hall festival and community concerts. All details are available on our website. Making music in a group is great fun and we would actively encourage you to let your child experience this.

We hope that your child enjoys learning with us.

If you would like any further information please contact us at [LMPlay@leics.gov.uk](mailto:LMPlay@leics.gov.uk)

- \*\* When a teacher misses lessons due to their absence they will attempt to make up those lessons later in the academic year so that the student has their full complement of lessons over the year. These may not be on consecutive weeks due to staff training. If it proves to not be possible we will issue a credit in the summer term.
- Parents are asked to inform the teacher of any known absences a minimum of four weeks in advance so that, where possible, these can be re-arranged within the same term. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that we will be able to make up all cancelled lessons though we reserve the right to still charge for any lessons that you cancel.
- In the case of school INSET / TRAINING days etc, if the school informs our teacher at the beginning of term they will attempt to amend their time table to fit the lessons in later in the school year.