

## **Musical instrument lessons for pupils in schools**

Slough Music Service can offer a range of instrumental lessons in schools. Lessons start from just £13.00 per term of 10 lessons.

### **Why is it good to learn a musical instrument?**

Learning a musical instrument is a great way to take part in a fun activity where you can enjoy playing music with others, perform to family and friends and take part in many activities in Slough.

We also know that learning to play an instrument is very good for a child's overall development. Music can help achievement across the curriculum, as well as developing all the skills necessary for all-round development.

### **How lessons are offered**

Lessons are offered in groups of up to 7 pupils in a lesson, or individually (one-to-one). Group lessons are more effective and affordable, and are recommended, especially for beginners. You can request an individual lesson if you wish, but this is at a much higher cost. Individual lessons are appropriate in certain circumstances, such as the instrument being learnt and the standard of the pupil.

Lessons are offered in school, during the school day, but are subject to the agreement of the headteacher. We do not offer lessons in individuals' homes.

### **Why should you use Slough Music Service teachers?**

Slough Music Service is part of Slough Borough Council's education and children's services, supported by Beechwood School, and funded by central government. This means we are subject to rigorous service and safety standards, receive funding to help keep lesson fees as low as possible, and are accountable to government for the quality of our teaching.

All our staff are subject to regular enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks and safeguarding training, as well as being monitored under our quality assurance procedures. They also receive regular training to update and enhance their skills.

### **What else we can offer...after school music clubs and holiday activities**

We also offer weekly after school music centres, where pupils who are having lessons can come and play with others in our orchestras. We also hold music courses during the spring and summer holiday where children can take part in a range of musical activities. Please visit our website for more information.

### **Instrument Hire**

Your child will need an instrument to learn. We suggest hiring an instrument from us when you first start lessons. Once you know you enjoy playing the instrument (one or two terms) you might like to buy your own. We can offer instrument hire, subject to availability, for a small charge.

### **Financial assistance for low income families**

We are able to offer reduced lesson charges for low income families. Please see below under 'level 1' and 'level 2' subsidies for lesson charges and the eligibility criteria.

## Termly charges for lessons

Parents/carers will receive an invoice once every term for the amount below, plus any other activities you choose to take part in (please see our website or contact us for full terms and conditions)

	LEVEL 1 SUBSIDY # (free school meals)		LEVEL 2 SUBSIDY # (income less than £25,000)		STANDARD RATE	
	Lesson charge	Instrument hire	Lesson charge	Instrument hire	Lesson charge	Instrument hire
<b>Group Lessons</b>	£13	free	£32.50	free	£65	£10.00
<b>Individual Lessons</b> 20 minutes	Na*	free	Na*	free	£132	£10.00
<b>Individual Lessons</b> 30 minutes	Na*	free	Na*	free	£198	£10.00

# Please see below, or contact us for full information about subsidised rates criteria and conditions

\* We will normally only subsidise individual lessons. Exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis. Please contact the music service.

We deliver a minimum of 30 lesson per academic year, averaging 10 per term. Group lessons are taught in groups of between 2 and 7 players as follows: 2 pupils - 20 minutes. 3 or 4 pupils - 30 minutes. 5 - 7 pupils - 45 minutes. Lessons are subject to the availability of teachers and the agreement of your school

## Other costs you should be aware of

Your child will occasionally need books to learn from. This usually adds up to about £10 per year. Some instruments (string and wind instruments) have parts that need replacing regularly or occasionally; this can add up to a few pounds each term.

## If you wish to apply for lessons you can:

- **apply online at [www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk](http://www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk)**
- **complete a paper application form available on the website or by contacting us at the address above.**

## Instrument Hire

Instruments can be loaned to pupils subject to availability. Hirers are responsible for care of instruments, and are liable for repairs and replacement charges. Pupils are encouraged to buy their own instrument after two or three terms of learning. Please ask us for advice before buying your own instrument. Please see the website or contact us for full terms and conditions of instrument hire.

## Financial assistance for families on low incomes

We are able to offer reduced cost lessons and free music centre membership and instrument hire for families on low incomes.

### Limitations and Conditions of the Remission Policy

Reduced lesson rates are normally only available for group lessons. Where the pupil has particular need (eg special learning needs, talented pupils) we may be able to assist further with the cost of individual lessons. This is at the discretion of the music service; please contact us for more information. Our bursary fund is limited; subsidies will be allocated in order of receipt whilst funds last. Pupils receiving reduced rates will be monitored for effort and attendance. Pupils who do not attend instrumental lessons and/or music centres regularly, and practice at home in between lessons, may have the subsidy withdrawn.

### Level 1 subsidy - Children registered at their school as eligible to receive Free School Meals

If the student is receiving free school meals you will be entitled to level 1 subsidy. This offers a reduction of 80% for a group lesson, free instrument hire and free music centre membership.

Please note that your child MUST be registered for free school meals at their school. For more information about registering, contact your school. You do not need to send us proof of registration.

### Level 2 subsidy - Households with an annual income between £16,190 & £25,000

If you are in receipt of one of the following benefits and your household income is below £25,000 with savings of less than £16,000 you may be entitled to level 2 subsidy:

Job Seekers Allowance (income based), Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Disability Living Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Pension Credit, Employment Support Allowance

This offers a reduction of 50% for a group lesson, free instrument hire and free music centre membership. You will need to send a copy of your full award letter with the lesson or centre application form.