



INSTRUMENTAL **OPPORTUNITIES** **AT ST MARY'S** **FROM SEPTEMBER 2022**

Music has always been an important part of school life at St Mary's. It includes: specialist class teaching, singing for worship, individual instrumental tuition and group lessons. Furthermore, we offer a variety of music clubs, including: Orchestra and Choir.

By Rachel Burrough
Music Coordinator



MUSIC AT ST MARY'S

St Mary's is a musical school. Our specialist music teacher works across the school to deliver tuition based on Kodaly and Dalcroze philosophy, which has formed the basis for the new Model Music Curriculum. Our musicians are taught to use their singing voices expressively and creatively through class music, assemblies, services and masses. All pupils are taught to play a variety of instruments, including untuned and tuned classroom percussion, djembe, ukulele and recorder, and develop the building blocks of musicianship, which provide a firm foundation for instrumental tuition.

St Mary's has a strong tradition of extra curricula music, providing both one to one and group tuition with our team of peripatetic teachers, on a variety of orchestral instruments and piano. We have opportunities for ensemble playing within the successful school orchestra, and also the choir.

We listen to a wide range of music from around the world that spans different cultures and are given an understanding of the history of music up to the modern day.

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

At set times during the week, music instrumental tutors visit the school to give lessons in their specialist instrument and children are taken out of class for the duration of their lesson. Mindful of not wanting the children to miss the same class lesson each week, the tutors vary the order they teach their pupils and sometimes the lessons take place during break or lunchtime. If children want to learn more than two instruments, they should try and arrange lessons out of school hours so they don't miss too much curriculum time.

The music teachers invoice you for lessons and fees need to be paid at the beginning of each term. Details for hiring or buying instruments can be arranged with the individual tutors.

Learning to play an instrument is a commitment and children should try their chosen instrument for at least one year to get any benefit. Parents should also supervise practise so it becomes part of a daily routine. Progress is linked to time practised. The more minutes your child practises, the quicker they learn and the more they enjoy it. Your child's instrumental lessons are a private arrangement between you and their teacher. If you have any queries you are very welcome to contact them.

PIANO

Our tutor is Mrs Charlotte Gibbs who offers individual lessons. She charges £11 for 20 minute individual lessons or 30 minutes for more advanced learners at £16.50 for a 30-minute lesson. If your child wants to learn to play the piano, they need to have a piano or large keyboard at home to practise on. **Please contact** admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk if you would like your child to start learning the piano.

VIOLIN, UKELELE & GUITAR

Our tutor is Mrs Julia Hurley who charges £35.40 per hour and this can be split into 20 minutes or 30 minutes. If pupils opt for a shared lesson, they can share 20 minutes between two or 30 minutes between three. However, group lessons are only possible if we have the right numbers.

Costs are as follows:

£17.70 for an individual 30-minute lesson

£11.80 per individual 20-minute lesson

£5.90 per shared lesson (20 minutes between 2 or 30 minutes between 3)

Violins are available in very small sizes and children can begin lessons from reception. The smallest viola is equivalent to a half size violin so children cannot start the viola until they are in Year 3 or 4 depending on their size!

Please contact Mrs Julia Hurley: Email: juliahurley@outlook.com Phone: 07784047997 if you would like your child to learn the violin, ukulele or guitar.

CELLO

Our tutor is Imogen Hovil who offers individual lessons at £16 for a weekly 30 minute lesson. She teaches 10 lessons each term. Cellos are available in very small sizes and Mrs Hovil teaches children from six years of age.

Please contact Mrs Imogen Hovil: Email: ihovil@hotmail.fr Phone: 07483242974 if you would like your child to start learning the cello.

FLUTE

Our tutor is Mrs Charlotte Gibbs who offers individual or small group lessons. She charges £11 for 20 minute individual lessons or 30 minutes for more advanced learners at £16.50 for a 30 minute lesson. 30 minute small group lessons of 2/3 pupils are £8.25, but will be dependent on numbers. Children need to be big enough to hold a flute so the best age to start would be Year 3 and above. **Please contact** admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk if you would like your child to start learning the flute.

DRUM KIT

We will also be able to offer drum lessons in the new school year and Mr. Jacobs is at present liaising with the proposed new drumming teacher. We will be able to give you further information in September, just as soon as all the arrangements have been finalised.

HIRING AN INSTRUMENT

It is generally a good idea to hire an instrument initially, rather than buying one straight away. You can hire most instruments from **Devon and Torbay Music Education Hub**.

[Hiring an instrument - Devon and Torbay Music Education Hubs](#)

Music shops such as John Packer Ltd, www.johnpacker.co.uk 01823 282386 offer a reasonable hire to purchase scheme for woodwind instruments.

FUNDING FOR LESSONS

If your child would like to learn an instrument but you feel you can't afford to pay for lessons, please let me know because I am in touch with different trusts that may be prepared to help towards the cost of music lessons for your child. A reminder that if your child is eligible for pupil premium, it may be possible for music lessons to be subsidised if this is supportive of their overall learning and need.

Please consider that if you are successful in receiving help for music tuition, you do have to be committed to helping your child play their instrument regularly to get the most out of their lessons.

If you are interested in any of the above options, please contact the teacher directly by email or phone to arrange a taster lesson in September before you fully commit to lessons. If your child is showing an interest in music but has not yet selected an instrument then please speak to me and I will be able to advise you.

Rachel Burrough
Music Coordinator

