



**MARTIN
HIGH SCHOOL**
Lionheart Educational Trust

**PERIPATETIC INSTRUMENTAL
LESSONS POLICY**

February 2024 – 2026



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1. Introduction

Every pupil has the right to receive extra-curricular instrumental and vocal lessons subject to the availability of a teacher, in accordance with the whole school policy on equal opportunities. There are many benefits of such lessons including:-

- Pupils benefit academically in that the skills and knowledge gained from a peripatetic lesson may benefit their curriculum work
- Pupils gain spiritually, morally and socially, especially if they attend one of the extra-curricular groups run by the music department
- Pupils who receive peripatetic lessons have the opportunity to participate in a wealth of extra-curricular music activities

2. Aims of the Policy

This policy seeks to ensure that:-

- All pupils have the opportunity to fully participate in instrumental lessons
- Pupils are supported in selecting the appropriate instrument that they wish to learn
- Pupils and parents are aware of the commitment that learning an instrument requires, both during the school day and at home

3. Peripatetic teaching staff

The Music Teacher liaises with all peripatetic instrumental teachers. All are well experienced, fully qualified and DBS checked.

Piano/Keyboard	Gareth Wynne
Singing	Alice Styles
Guitar and Bass Guitar	Darryl Golding
Drums and Percussion	Minesh Patel
Djembe	Julie Wright
Violin	Claire Grocock
Woodwind	Christine Taylor – no players currently
Rock Ensemble Tuition	Jonathan Davison – MHS Music & Drama Technician
Oboe	Sally Griffiths - no players currently
Bassoon	Rebecca Wong – no players currently



4. When lessons take place

Instrumental lessons take place throughout the school day, throughout the week. It is the responsibility of each pupil to check the time of their instrumental lessons. Timetables are displayed on the music department notice board, music practise rooms, shared via email with all staff and in other relevant areas around the school. A copy may also be sent home for reference. All staff at MHS are aware that pupils receive instrumental tuition and grant permission for them to leave timetabled lessons at the appropriate time.

In the case of Year 11 pupils preparing for their GCSE exams, priority instrument lesson times are given to these pupils to ensure they miss as little class lessons as possible. This is reviewed with all class teachers, parents and the pupil taking the instrumental lessons.

5. Fees

Peripatetic lessons cost £12.50 per 20-minute lesson or £18.00 per 30 minute lesson. Pupils are taught individually, or in pairs where pupils are of a similar ability. Piano and drum lessons can only be taught in individual lessons. Parents will be invoiced directly from the instrumental teacher prior to each term for the next set of lessons. This fee must be paid in full to the instrument teacher before lessons can commence. All questions regarding payment will only be dealt with by the teacher contracted, and not by Martin High School. For pupils who are pupil premium, please speak with the Music Teacher regarding payment of lessons through our pupil premium budget.

6. Procedure for terminating lessons

If a student decides to stop their lessons, this must be communicated between the parent/carer and the teacher contracted. Please note that one term's notice is required if you child wishes to stop receiving instrumental lessons. If lessons must be terminated part way through a term, the full fee is still applicable as stated in the contract with your chosen teacher.

7. Attendance

Pupils must endeavour not to miss lessons. They must leave their class in good time to attend their instrumental or vocal lesson. If there are any issues regarding pupils missing a curriculum lesson, staff, parents and pupils should discuss the matter with the Music Teacher in the first instance. If a student has an important curriculum lesson which, for example, may contain assessed work, it may be possible to alter peripatetic lesson times if:-

- Adequate notice is given to inform other students of the timetable change
- In changing the timetable, there is not a detrimental knock-on effect to many other students.

8. Absences

- Any information regarding absences of any kind can be communicated directly to the teacher by phone/email/text (text is permissible for short notices such as absences or through the school office, who will pass the information on when the teacher arrives. A message on the morning of the absence itself is perfectly acceptable.
- Lessons that are missed without prior notice, or lessons that are missed due to the children not being in school for example, trips or fixtures will unfortunately be forfeit. This does include illness.
- If a pupil (or parent) informs the peripatetic teacher of a planned absence on the morning of a sports fixture, they will endeavour to teach the child before midday or the lesson will be made up at a future date to be agreed by the parent and instrumental teacher.



- An absence of a peripatetic teacher will count as a lesson owed.
- Absences of peripatetic teachers will be communicated to pupils via registers and email to form tutors.
- If a student misses 3 lessons without legitimate reason, parents/carers will be contacted directly by the instrumental/vocal teacher.

9. Storage of instruments

Most instruments are covered by most household insurance policies. Martin High School is unable to accept liability for any loss or damage to instruments whilst in school. Please ensure your child's instrument is clearly labelled with their name. Instruments should be left at the appropriate place in the music department and should be taken home at the end of each day.

10. Instrument Purchase and Instrument Hire

Information on where to purchase musical instruments will be given to you by your instrument teacher or by the Music Teacher. Where we have spare instruments of your choice in school, these can be hired from the school at a fee of £10.00 per year. For more information about hiring an instrument, please contact the Music Teacher at the school.

11. Advice on practice

Pupils are expected to practice between 10 and 20 minutes a day. Regular practice is very important. It is far better to do a little most nights, than to do half an hour the night before a lesson.

12. Monitoring progress

Pupil progress is logged weekly by all visiting teachers and communicated directly to parents/carers. Entrance for an examination is also an indicator of progress. Examiners' feedback can be constructive and useful to pupil, parent and teacher.

13. Examinations

Pupils may be entered for ABRSM, Rock School and Trinity Guildhall examinations at the teacher's discretion. Teachers will select the most appropriate level of difficulty of examination. It is important to remember that there is a cost element to examinations and that it is the responsibility of the parent to arrange transport to and from the examination centre.

14. Guidance for Peripatetic staff

Keeping a register:

Staff must keep a weekly register. Reasons for this include Health & Safety as well as dispute resolution. The Music Teacher also monitors attendance, as well as how many pupils are studying an instrument at any one time.

Rewarding Students:

Thorough practice and/or good preparation for lessons and excellent effort in lessons should be rewarded. We run a 'star' reward system in school, please ask the music teacher to reward a student on your behalf.

Absences:

If absent due to illness, please inform the music teacher on the morning of your absence. In the event of any long absences which are not due to illness (freelance work, musical tours, etc.), peripatetic



teachers are required to help provide a suitably qualified professional to deputise on their behalf. All necessary DBS and safeguarding will be checked by the Music Teacher and the school HR.

Tasks within the Music Department:

Peripatetic teachers are accountable to the Music Teacher where reasonable requests are made in relation to their students' progress through music at school. This will usually include simple tasks such as accompanying their students in performances at school events or for grade exams, and assisting with GCSE coursework preparation. Teachers may also be asked about the possibility of coaching ensembles alongside their individual lessons. ^[1]_[SEP]

Safeguarding:

Teachers must ensure that their DBS Certification is updated as required, they have attended safeguarding training, and that they are aware of the school's child protection policies. The school will ask to see certificates of these when signing in at the main entrance.

15. Equality of access

All students are entitled to participate in instrumental tuition regardless of their age, background, gender, ethnicity or ability.

16. Review of Policy

This policy is reviewed every two years by the Music Teacher.