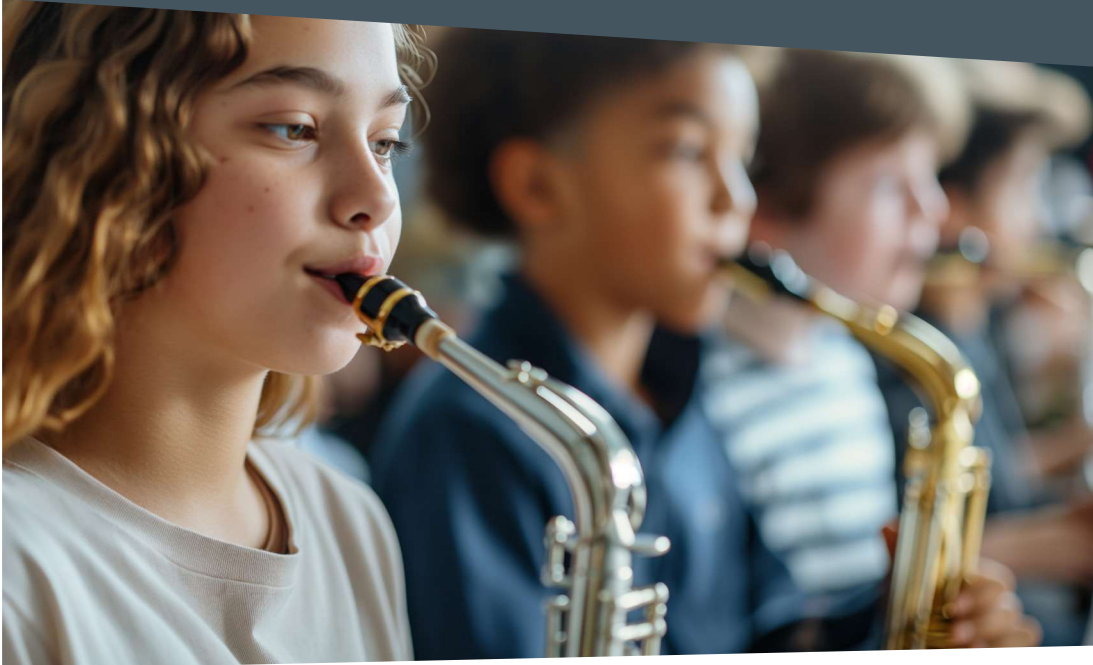




Scottish Borders Council

MUSIC SERVICE



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Learning to Play

We offer free specialist instruction from a variety of musical instrument families, including; brass, strings, woodwind, percussion and guitar.

Lessons take place weekly as part of the school day. Pupils attending instrumental lessons will miss their normal class. In secondary schools, timetables are designed on rotation, to make sure pupils don't always miss the same subject lesson every week. Pupils will receive regular feedback from their instrumental instructor.

Feedback will be available via Microsoft Teams and the school digital platform, *Showbie*. This method will replace the traditional annual progress reports. There may also be the opportunity to attend "playdays" or ensemble days, and join bands and other instrumental groups within schools. Schools will be able to provide further information.

No cost!

The First Minister reaffirmed in Parliament in May 2021 the initiative to abolish fees for instrumental music tuition in schools. Therefore, families in the Scottish Borders will not receive a charge associated with any part of their child's music tuition.

We hope this initiative continues to encourage new pupils to consider learning an instrument.



Assisted Instrument Purchase

As lessons progress you may wish to purchase an instrument for your child. Discounted prices of 20% off are available through the music service.

Certain conditions apply. Pupils must:

- attend a Scottish Borders school
- receive music instruction from one of our instructors

We recommend that pupils discuss with their school music instructor first before ordering an instrument.

Continuing Instrumental Music Lessons

Pupils who move from primary to secondary school will automatically be given a space on the school's instrumental music timetable by the instructor. Should pupils choose to discontinue, this needs to be arranged in discussion with their instructor and school music teacher, followed by a written and signed note by the pupil's parent/carer.



DOWNLOAD - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/ CARERS (E-leaflet-booklet)

Welcome to the Scottish Borders Council Instrumental Music Service

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child has the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument at their school. This is an excellent chance for your child to learn a new and exciting skill.

This booklet contains important information such as:

- Your responsibilities for the musical instrument we will loan to your child.
- How we will help your child learn to play their instrument.

Most children enjoy learning to play a musical instrument.

You can help your child to learn by:

- Encouraging them to practise regularly and record their progress.
- Encouraging them to take part in the many activities when they are advertised.
- Letting us know if you have any concerns or how we can support your child further.

If you have any questions you can get in touch via email.

Yours sincerely,

Finlay Hetherington
Head of Instrumental Music



(SBC Instrumental Music)

@ sbc_musicservice



Your Child's Musical Instrument

We will loan a musical instrument and provide lessons to your child subject to the following conditions:

1. The instrument on loan is the property of Scottish Borders Council. It must always be treated with care. The instrument must be returned to us, in good condition, when required.
2. The instrument must only be used by the child to whom it is loan to. Your child must not share their instrument with others.
3. Your child's Instructor will give simple directions to help your child take care of their musical instrument. You should make sure your child always follows these directions.
4. When your child is not using the instrument, they should make sure it is safely stored in its case (having been cleaned properly after use).
5. If your child wishes to play the instrument in regular activities out with SBC, you/they must seek permission from their instructor first.
6. You agree to buy replacement accessories, such as strings or reeds, as needed.
7. You agree to buy /download sheet music as needed. This must be kept safely.



Insuring the instrument

Because of the high costs of insurance premiums to cover equipment, Scottish Borders Council is not insured for loss or damage to musical instruments, even when they are in school. You must provide insurance yourself.

Some household policies provide cover for musical instruments. Please take time to check your policy, all policies are different, and you may need to make an extra payment. Please make sure your policy covers the instrument when it is not in the house.

Buying an Instrument/Assisted Purchase Scheme

If your child enjoys playing music, you may wish to buy them an instrument of their own. We will be happy to offer advice and information about discounted prices available through the Council. Typically, instruments purchased through SBC are 20% cheaper than their recommended retail price (RRP).



Your child's lessons

Your child's instrumental lessons will be part of their school day and as part of a small group. After some time, our instructor may teach your child as part of a pair or in an individual lesson. Lessons will consist of practical performance, recording of performances, musicianship and theory. Your child will have the opportunity in most cases to participate in weekly instrumental lessons, of which they will come out of their class timetable to attend. In secondary schools, we plan timetables carefully to make sure your child does not miss the same weekly subject. It is your child's responsibility to catch up with any class work and homework they miss due to their instrumental lessons. It is also vital that class teachers know when they are attending their lesson.

Practice

The best way for your child to learn to play an instrument is for them to practise regularly – little and often. Please encourage your child to practise often and praise them when they do well! Your child can log practice, and you as well as their instructor, can track progress using a blend of Microsoft Teams and *Showbie*.

Progress

With the introduction of *Showbie* across primary and secondary schools. Instrumental music progress will move from a single progress report once each year* to regular progress updates communicated by instructors via *Showbie*.

If you would like to talk about your child's progress at any time please contact us, their instructor or their school. You will find our contact details at the end of this booklet.

**Traditionally, progress reports have been issued to S4-6 by the end of term 1 and Primary 4 - S3 have received their reports by term 3.*

Playing in Ensembles

The opportunity to participate in an instrumental group/ensemble will be given to all pupils who have been playing their instrument for at least one year.



Borders Young Musicians

Borders Young Musicians is a parent, teachers and friend's organisation which was formed in 1985 to support area music activities. Their financial support, through fund raising, has helped sustain the continuation of a range of ensembles and groups. This significant support by BYM owes much to the dedication of committee members. BYM is always looking for a commitment from parents of pupils currently involved in music activities.

For more information please contact:

Email: Bordersyoungmusicians@gmail.com



**MAKE A DONATION BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE**



Contact

For further information please contact the Instrumental Music Service - details below. You can get this document on audio, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

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