

# Instrumental lessons

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



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# Welcome to the Scottish Borders Council Instrumental Service

## Dear Parent/Carer

Your child has the chance to learn how to play a musical instrument at their school or “Virtually”. This is an excellent opportunity 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 lend to your child; and
- how we will help your child learn to play their instrument.

If you would like your child to start or continue Instrumental lessons, please:

1. Read this booklet carefully and contact us if you have any questions
2. Fill in the registration form online

Once we receive your completed registration form, we will arrange Instrumental lessons for your child.

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 on offer again.
- Letting us know if you have any concerns.

Please keep this booklet for your own information. If you have any questions you can get in touch with us using the contact details at the back of this booklet.

Yours sincerely

**Jeff Thomson**  
Instrumental Service Manager



## Your child's musical instrument

We will lend a musical instrument and give 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 lent. Your child must not share their instrument
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. In normal circumstance, if your child wishes to play the instrument in regular activities out with Children and Young People's Services, 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

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.



## Your child's lessons

Your child will most likely go into a group Instrumental lesson as part of their school day. Lessons may be face to face or "Virtual" on Teams. After some time, the 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.

When your child goes or participates in an Instrumental lesson, they will miss their normal class. In secondary schools, we plan timetables carefully to make sure your child does not always miss the same 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 a lesson.

## Practice diary

The best way for your child to learn to play an instrument is for them to practise every day. We ask parents/carers to help their children understand how important regular practice is. Please encourage your child to practise often and praise them when they do well!

On Teams, there is a diary and chat for them to keep track of their Instrumental practice, as directed by their Instructor. You can use this

online diary to exchange information with the Instructor, too. Some instructors will encourage pupils to use a practice diary app on their mobile phones.

## Progress reports

You will receive a progress report once each year.

- We issue reports to Primary and S1-S3 pupils in May.
- We issue reports to S4-S6 pupils in November.

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.

## Playing in ensembles

Hopefully orchestras, bands, playdays and other instrumental groups will start up again this 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 orchestras and choirs. 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:

**BYM Secretary**  
**Fiona McKenzie**  
**Thorneydykes Garden House**  
**Westruther**  
**TD3 6NG**  
**01573 740329**

## Contact

For further information please contact the Instrumental Service details below.

You can get this document on audio CD, 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.

### CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

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