



# Why Learn to Play a Musical Instrument?

Learning a musical instrument at school improves children's behaviour, memory and intelligence according to the analysis of decades of research by Professor Susan Hallam, of the Institute of Education, University of London. Experts say that when we play music, both sides of the brain light up simultaneously, creating neural pathways for learning. The evidence shows that it boosts brain power, stimulating parts of the brain that are related to reading, mathematics and emotional development. This leads musically-trained pupils to remember almost a fifth more information. This and more scientific evidence confirms that learning a musical instrument/voice has many benefits, beyond mere musical development. It also promotes self-discipline, determination and time management skills.

Our lessons are fun and are tailored to individual needs and can build up to music examinations or simply focus on the enjoyment of playing. We aim to enable young people to discover the joy of music making, whilst enabling them to unlock their true emotional, creative and musical potential. Finally and perhaps most importantly, playing a musical instrument is a skill for life giving pleasure to both listeners and performers.

## How and Where?

Flintshire Music Service lessons are organised through your school; are taught in small groups during school hours and are normally 30 minutes in duration. We believe that the dynamic of group lessons stimulates learning and furthers understanding, whilst providing a cost effective solution for schools and parents. The cost of all lessons are subsidised by schools. Tuition costs vary between £3 and £6 per 30 minute lesson. Private lessons are generally in the region of £15 per 30 minute lesson so the good value of Flintshire Music Service's lessons is evident. Learners in receipt of Free School Meals should discuss with their school if there are remissions available.



## Terms and Conditions

There are 39 weeks in an Academic year within which we offer a minimum of 30 school visits. If 30 visits have not taken place during the school year (for example, due to teacher illness) then refunds will be made to the school at the end of the school year. Refunds are not given for situations outside our control, e.g. when the venue is closed for safety reasons (severe weather etc.). If possible, make-up sessions will be arranged. Refunds cannot be considered if pupils and parents elect to miss lessons to take part in other events.



- All Flintshire Music Service tutors are:**
- appropriately qualified and appointed after interview, audition, medical and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
  - kept up to date with developments through a programme of in-service training, including Child Protection and Health and Safety training.
  - supported and developed through a continuous programme of performance management and professional development.

### How do I Organise Lessons?

- Contact your school between May to July and ask which instruments they offer for peripatetic music lessons.
- You should receive a guidance document and a 'Form of Agreement' asking you to sign up for a whole academic year.
- Return the form promptly to school so that lessons can start in September.



### Which Instruments can I Learn?

Each school offers a range of different instruments; contact your school to discuss which instrument you would like your child to learn, these are often listed on the 'Form of Agreement' letter where you are asked to rank your choice. If in doubt please don't hesitate to contact us on [music.service@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@flintshire.gov.uk) for further guidance.

FMS will manage and administer the maintenance charges directly with Parent/Guardians, which will be collected during the Spring Term. The maintenance fee applies to all learners, including those registered for Free School Meals.

### Where can I get Instruments from?

Learners taught by Flintshire Music Service tutors have access to its stock of instruments (subject to availability) through the County's Instrument Loan Scheme. (NB Harps, Guitars, Pianos, Keyboards and Percussion are not available through this scheme.) Learners who utilize the loan scheme will be required to pay an annual maintenance charge of £25 to enable FMS to maintain the condition of its stock of instruments. Instruments are normally given to learners once they have been shown how to look after the instrument appropriately, this is usually in the first week or two of lessons commencing.

It is hoped that most learners will require a loaned instrument for a maximum of two years. All learners will have access to the Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme. This is a government initiative that enables learners to buy instruments for lessons in school without paying VAT.

### Flintshire County Music School

Learners receiving lessons from the Music Service are entitled to membership of the Flintshire County Music School ensembles, once the required standard has been reached. Fees for membership of Flintshire Music School are set at £90 per annum, which equates to approximately £2 per hour. For more information please contact the music service on 01352 704130 or [music.service@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@flintshire.gov.uk)



The Music School presently provides progression and high quality performance opportunities for around 350 learners in choirs, string orchestras, windbands, jazz orchestra and guitar and harp ensembles. Learners have access to weekly rehearsals from 4.00 – 5.30pm, under the direction of specialist conductors and tutors from the Music Service.

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg. Cysylltwch â 01352 704130 i gael fersiwn Gymraeg  
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