

Valley Gardens Middle School

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION SCHEME - 2025/2026



Valley Gardens Middle School has long had a reputation for the quality of its music education in the classroom as well as that provided by its visiting music teachers.

The school is able to arrange tuition but the cost must be met by the parents. Parents will also have to be responsible for the purchase of music and equipment such as reeds and drum sticks. The school is usually able to offer the loan of an instrument for an annual fee of £20. If all our instruments are on loan, we will put your child's name on our waiting list or alternatively you can make your own arrangements.

Instrumental tuition is available in school on the following instruments:

Instrument	Teacher	Availability and requirements of instrument
Violin and viola	Mrs Critten	Available to hire
Cello	Mrs Bland	Available to hire
Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone	Miss Freeman	Available to hire • Reeds
Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone	Mr Flood	Available to hire
Drum kit	Mr Hetherington	Not available to hire • Instrument to practise on • Drum sticks
Piano	Mrs Gould	Not available to hire • Instrument to practise on
Keyboard and Piano	Mr Jobson	Not available to hire • Instrument to practise on
Guitar	Mr Davies	Not available to hire • Instrument to practise on
Recorder (descant, treble and tenor)	Mrs Teoh	Not available to hire • Instrument to practise on
Voice	Mrs Bland	N/A

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION

Key Information

Lessons

1. Most lessons are half-hour sessions held once per week and teachers aim to provide 36 weeks of tuition per year.
2. Pupils are taught on a rotating timetable so that pupils do not miss the same subject every week.
3. Individual lessons are available for all instruments. Paired and group lessons are an option for some instruments.
4. Timetables are emailed to parents and posted on a board within the Music Department.
5. It is the responsibility of pupils to attend lessons. Please see 'Lessons Missed.' Teachers will attempt to find your child but the consequence will be missed lesson time at your cost.
6. Pupils can receive instrumental tuition on a maximum of 2 musical instruments during lesson time..
7. Lessons should not be requested if your child is receiving tuition on your chosen instrument with a private tutor outside of school.

School Instruments

8. A levy of **£20 per year** will be required for those borrowing a school instrument.

Purchase of Own Instruments /Trial of Instruments

9. For pupils wanting to purchase their own instrument the department runs an 'Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme' whereby parents can purchase a musical instrument at a reduced cost. (Contact the pupil's instrumental teacher, Foundation Subject Leader or visit the Music Department on the school website for further details of this scheme).
10. There are a number of schemes from music shops within the area that allow you to trial an instrument paying monthly then deducting this from the total cost of the instrument, allowing you to either hire or purchase the instrument.

Cost

11. Invoices for tuition are issued at the beginning of each term/half term.
12. Fees range from £16 to £19 per half hour lesson. Some staff are able to offer paired and/or group lessons - more information available on request.
13. There is a charge for using school instruments, please see 'School Instruments.'
14. Prompt settlement of bills is appreciated.
15. All queries regarding bills and lessons should be addressed to the instrumental staff.

Lessons Missed

16. Attempts will be made to 'make up' lessons missed through genuine prolonged illness (of child or teacher) but is not guaranteed.
17. Lessons missed through forgetfulness, failure to bring music/instrument, or lessons missed through absence from school may not be 'made up'.
18. Where major school activities (e.g. trips, exams) prevent attendance, teachers will attempt to provide alternative timings, providing pupils discuss alternatives with them **in advance**.

Extra Curricular

19. Once pupils reach a good standard we encourage them to attend an extra-curricular activity i.e. choir, windband, string orchestra, recorder group, rock bands etc.

Cancellation of Lessons

20. To cancel instrumental lessons, parents/carers are required to give a minimum of a **half-term's notice in writing** or a **half term's fees in lieu**.

Please [here](#) to apply for lessons for your child

PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY OR CHEQUES AT THIS STAGE.