

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

2026/2027



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 need 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.

Music tuition is available in school on the following instruments:

Instrument	Teacher	Availability and requirements of instrument
Violin and viola	Helen Critten	Available to hire
Cello	Jennifer Bland	Available to hire
Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone	Catherine Freeman	Available to hire Own reeds required
Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone	John Flood	Available to hire
Drum kit	Ian Hetherington	Not available to hire Instrument to practise on at home Own Drum sticks required
Piano	Niel Morton	Not available to hire Instrument to practise on at home
Piano	Fiona Gould	Not available to hire Instrument to practise on at home
Keyboard and Piano	David Jobson	Not available to hire Instrument to practise on at home
Guitar	Stuart Davies	Not available to hire Instrument to practise on at home
Guitar	Stuart McKinnon	Not available to hire Instrument to practise on at home
Recorder (descant, treble and tenor)	Sarah Teoh	Not available to hire Instrument to practise on at home
Voice	Jennifer Bland	N/A

Key Information

Lessons

1. Most lessons are half-hour sessions held once per week and most teachers aim to provide 36 weeks of tuition per year.
2. Individual lessons are available for all instruments. Paired and group lessons are an option for some instruments.
3. Pupils are taught on a rotating timetable so that pupils do not miss the same subject every week.
4. Timetables are emailed to parents and displayed on a notice board within the Music Department.
5. Pupils can receive instrumental tuition on a maximum of 2 musical instruments during lesson time.
6. Lessons should not be requested if your child is receiving tuition on their chosen instrument with a private tutor outside of school.

School Instruments

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

Purchase of Own Instruments /Trial of Instruments

8. 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. Please email music@vgms.uk for more information.

Cost

9. Invoices for tuition are issued at the beginning of each term/half term.
10. Fees range from £18 to £20 per half hour lesson. Some staff are able to offer paired and/or group lessons - more information available on request.
11. Prompt settlement of bills is appreciated.
12. All queries regarding bills and lessons should be addressed directly to your child's music tutor.

Lessons Missed

13. Parents are responsible for sharing information about school trips or other events with their child's music tutor.
14. Pupils are responsible for remembering the time of their lesson and for arriving on time. Teachers will attempt to locate pupils but this is not always possible.
15. Attempts will be made to 'make up' lessons missed through genuine prolonged illness (of child or teacher) but is not guaranteed.
16. Lessons missed through forgetfulness, failure to bring music/instrument, or lessons missed through absence from school may not be 'made up'.
17. Where major school activities (e.g. trips, exams) prevent attendance, teachers will attempt to provide alternative timings but can't be guaranteed.

Extra Curricular

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

Cancellation of Lessons

19. 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 click [here](#) to apply for lessons for your child.