

Tune In

The Instrumental Music Service



Information leaflet for parents/carers

West Lothian Council delivers

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West Lothian
Council

Instrumental Music Service

West Lothian Council's Instrumental Music Service provides free instrumental music lessons to primary and secondary school pupils and opportunities for these pupils to play in one of the many bands and ensembles that perform regularly at a range of venues and events locally, nationally and internationally.

The service is delivered in schools by professional instrumental music teachers who provide a structured and progressive music curriculum. It is managed by two Principal Officers who are based within Arts Services.

How will learning to play a musical instrument help my child?

As well as musical development the many general benefits gained from learning to play a musical instrument include enhanced listening and concentration, discipline, co-ordination, language development, memory and social skills. It helps your child become part of a team and to respect other team members.

How much will it cost?

Lessons are free but you will be asked to buy music, and some pieces of equipment, reeds, strings etc. For a more accurate estimate please contact your child's instrumental teacher.

How can my child become part of this?

We aim, within the available resources, to provide opportunities for pupils to learn to play a musical instrument in all primary and secondary schools. Instrumental Music teachers provide instruction in a range of strings, brass, woodwind, guitar and percussion instruments- availability of specific instruments varies in different cluster areas. Children are selected using established musical selection procedures. Your instrumental teacher will recommend the most appropriate instrument. Depending on resources an instrument will be provided on loan without charge for an initial period of tuition but it is also possible to purchase an instrument through your child's school using the Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme. AIPS enables you to buy a musical instrument without paying VAT.

When are the lessons and how do I check on progress?

The lessons are free, once a week during the school day but are, wherever possible, provided on a rotational basis so that no particular curriculum subject is affected. The length of the lesson can vary. Individual learning plans/targets are agreed with pupils, their progress is checked weekly and a written report is issued each year. Children are also encouraged to take part in nationally recognised music exams such as music medals to boost their sense of achievement.

Is there anything I can do to help?

Your role in supporting your child is an important one.

- encourage regular practice in a quiet place and listen to them playing from time to time
- be positive, especially in the early stages
- encourage your child to attend lessons regularly
- be prepared to buy music and accessories
- don't hesitate to contact your child's instrumental teacher if you need advice
- encourage your child to take up opportunities to perform solo and in groups.

What happens as my child progresses?

All the way through instrumental music teaching, your child will be encouraged

to assess themselves, first with music medals, then by sitting

SQA and external music examinations. Music exams passed at grades 6, 7 or 8 also score

valuable points on college or university application forms (UCAS). There are bands or

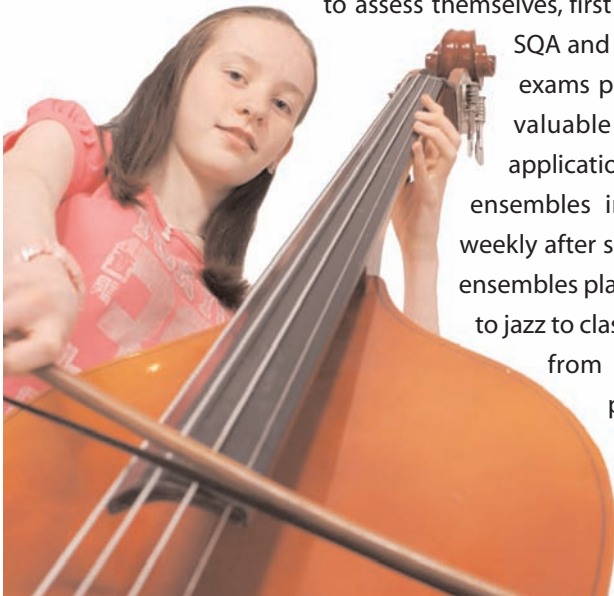
ensembles in most schools that usually play weekly after school hours and there are also area

ensembles playing all kinds of music from popular to jazz to classical. These bring young musicians

from different schools together to

perform, often with professional musicians, at prestigious venues

around the world.



Where can I get more information?

The Instrumental Music Service team from Arts Services will be happy to talk to you about any questions you may have.

Please contact:

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or alternatively contact the
instrumental music teacher
at your child's school.

