

# Wider Opportunities in Music

## The whole class instrumental scheme – a guide

The Camden Music Service is giving your child a fantastic opportunity - the chance to learn a musical instrumental absolutely free for this year.

They are having lessons with the rest of their class and will be part of a class band.

The project is organised jointly by the Camden Music Service and by the school. Music Service tutors will work alongside teachers from your child's school.

This is a short guide to what it's all about, why it's a good idea and how you can help.

You can also see a short video [here](#).



Supported using public funding by



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## **Learning a musical instrument -**

*why it's a good idea for your child*

**Music develops life skills** – children who are successful musicians also develop the self-discipline and focus to be successful in other areas of their life. Learning an instrument requires perseverance and commitment. It also teaches you how to be organised and responsible.

**Music helps children in other areas of learning** – learning an instrument and playing in a band can improve self-confidence, behaviour and social skills. Studying music boosts achievement in literacy and mathematics. It sharpens your concentration, improving learning skills and increasing the capacity of your memory.

**Music is fun** – it's a social thing, something that can become a lifelong hobby – or job! Young people who play as part of a band or orchestra or sing in a choir develop lasting friendships and a real sense of teamwork and belonging.

### **Will it cost me anything?**

The lessons are free for this year. After this we hope that your child will want to carry on and we'll suggest ways in which this could happen. After the first year it won't be free, but it probably won't be as expensive as you think.

### **What will my child learn?**

- Your child will have an introduction to playing their instrument.
- They will start to learn to read music.
- They will learn the musical skills needed to play as part of a band or orchestra.

### **Does my child need an instrument?**

We will lend your child an instrument for the year. We ask that you help them remember to bring it to school for their lesson and to look after it at home. The school will ask that you sign an agreement form.

### **What else can I do to help?**

You should encourage your child to practise every day for about 15 minutes. Finding a regular time slot helps with this.

Take an interest in what your child is learning and go along to hear them play when they give concerts – the school will arrange for performances every term.

Sometimes learning an instrument is hard work. Encourage your child to keep going and not give up!

### **What happens next?**

After your child has been learning for a little while, we hope that they will want to join a band to play with children from other schools.

Information about how to get involved is on the [Camden Music Service Website](#)

Or phone 020 7974 7239 and we'll tell you what's available.

### **And after the end of the first year?**

After this we hope that your child will want to carry on and we'll suggest ways in which this could happen. After the first year it won't be free, but it probably won't be as expensive as you think.

### **Who do I get in touch with if I need to know anything?**

Your child's class teacher is involved in this project and will be able to help with any queries. Or talk to the music teacher at school or you could get in touch with the Camden Music Service directly - we would be delighted to hear from you.

020 7974 7239

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