



**Prospectus
for**

**Instrumental Tuition
and
Central Groups**



Foreword

Throughout Scotland, the second half of the twentieth century has witnessed a substantial growth in instrumental music provision in schools.

Authorities, in seeking to further enrich the educational experience available to school pupils, now regard instrumental provision as offering a further dimension to the school curriculum.

As well as the benefits available to the individual pupil, there has been a growth in instrumental ensembles in school, regional and national youth orchestras and bands offering further musical opportunities.

Instrumental music education, both formal and informal, is recognised in preparing children for life. The ability to perform on a musical instrument fosters creativity and teaches critical assessment of the world around us and instils the basic values of self discipline.

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Benefits

The following benefits of learning to play a musical instrument are recognised by all who are involved in the teaching process:

Your child when learning to play a musical instrument develops a wide range of unique skills, providing a means of fulfilment and enjoyment whilst nurturing a greater understanding of the arts.

You as parents can enjoy and share the child's excitement in learning to play an instrument. Your child performing at a concert will provide you with a great sense of pride and satisfaction.

Schools will provide opportunities for pupils to enrich their curriculum and the life of the school. This offers an additional focus for the arts and enhances the profile of the school.

Instrumental music prepares pupils to make a meaningful contribution towards the artistic life of their community.

The Perth and Kinross Instrumental Service consists of twenty six permanent and part-time staff offering instruction on Strings, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Piano, Guitar, Singing and Bagpipes.

The majority of staff are conservatoire graduates which means they are exceptionally well qualified and experienced in delivering instrumental teaching.

All new staff are carefully selected through the interview process which includes criminal record checks for the safety of the pupils.

Objectives

The following objectives are based on a study of good practice evident in the distinct nature of the work of instrumental staff currently employed in Perth and Kinross Schools.

To provide opportunities of access for all pupils to experience the expressive and creative qualities of music through learning to play a musical instrument as part of education for life.

To encourage and enable pupils to realise their full potential through the mastery of technical skills, the development of musical perception and aesthetic sensitivity. To encourage self confidence and develop a sense of achievement and self expression.

To offer musical experiences. To enhance and support the music curriculum. To help pupils acquire skills which will allow them to enjoy and become actively involved in a wide range of musical experiences contributing to the musical life of the school and the community.

To develop skills. To encourage and assist pupils to develop their intellectual, affective, psychomotor, social and personal skills. To help pupils foster an understanding of music in the everyday life of their own and other cultures.

The above objectives are particularly enhanced by the Perth and Kinross Central Groups (see page 7) which give the pupils an opportunity to meet, rehearse and socialise with other pupils from all over Perth and Kinross. These groups are considered to be an integral part of the Instrumental Service and have been carefully structured to run in conjunction with school tuition. It is hoped that pupils receiving instrumental instruction will make every effort to attend these Central Groups in order that they can utilise this provision to the maximum.

Registration and Selection Procedures

Any pupil interested in receiving tuition should register by completing an IT1 form, available at all school offices. The completed form should then be forwarded to the Finance/Resource Services, Education and Children's Services, Pullar House, Perth, PH1 5GD as stated on the form. These forms will be processed and forwarded on to the relevant instructors.

Applicants will then be tested for suitability towards learning an instrument (involving tests in pitch, rhythm and other musical attributes).

Due to the high demand for instrumental instruction, only a certain number of pupils will get the chance to commence tuition immediately, but the remainder are put on a waiting list and may have the opportunity to receive tuition at a later date.

A basic instrument is supplied initially with a view to pupils obtaining their own instrument when compatibility has been realised.

Staff Deployment



Initially, priority of instruction time goes to the secondary schools where Education and Children's Services strive to offer each school an equal, balanced amount of instruction. Instrumental staff will teach a balanced number of pupils from years 1 – 6 to ensure constant pupil progress and to allow opportunity to access the service in 1st year and continue right through until 6th years. Any remaining instructors' time is then deployed in primary schools where, again, the emphasis is on a fair distribution and delivery of instruction amongst the feeding primary schools of each secondary.

Service Strategies

Upon selection, the successful pupils commence their tuition usually in the form of small group lessons. Experience has shown that this generally proved to be the best policy for beginners. Receiving tuition with their friends helps to make the pupils feel more relaxed and gives them the opportunity of both solo and ensemble playing within their lessons from the very start.

It should not be regarded as a disadvantage not to be receiving lessons on a one to one basis at this stage.

Your child will then continue to receive well structured, pre-planned instrumental lessons with professional calculated attainment targets.

After a very short period, pupils will be ready to attend one of the Perth and Kinross Central Groups (see page 7). These ensembles which have been carefully designed to run in conjunction with instrumental tuition in schools, can accommodate pupils at all levels from beginners to advanced and are an integral part of the service.

Pupils receiving tuition will also enjoy being an active member of their school orchestras, ensembles and chamber groups, participating in Christmas Carol Concerts, Music Festivals, Perth Festival of the Arts and prize-givings. Occasionally professional bodies will visit the schools to give workshops and masterclasses.

The structuring of instrumental teaching in Perth and Kinross schools means that if your child gets the opportunity to receive lessons at primary school, they will usually be able to continue lessons with the same teacher through to the end of secondary school, incorporating Standard Grade Music, Higher Music, Sixth Year Studies and Associated Board music exams if required. Pupils wishing to progress on to Music Colleges, eg Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, will be assisted (non financial) with entrance exam and auditions. Parents will be responsible for Associated Board fees.

The overall standard of instrumental tuition is constantly monitored and assessed and is constantly being improved as a result of in-service training and inter-staff discussions.

Central Groups

Registration

Any pupil wishing to participate in any of the Central Group Activities should register by completing an IT2 form available from all school offices or from instructors.

There is an ensemble for all instrumentalists to participate in from beginners right up to advanced players.

Perth Youth Orchestra		Monday	6.15 – 8.30pm
Elementary String Orchestra	}	Wednesday	6.00 – 7.00pm
Junior Orchestra	}		
Junior Brass Band	}		
Senior Brass Band	}	Thursday	6.00 – 7.30pm
String Orchestra	}		
Wind Orchestra	}	Friday	6.00 – 7.30pm
Concert Band	}		
Wind Band	}		

All rehearsals take place from October – March throughout the winter at Caledonian Road Primary School Music Centre.

These ensembles are coached weekly throughout the winter months by highly experienced tutors and conductors and perform at local concerts, highlighted at the end of the year by Annual Central Groups Concerts.

It is hoped that if there is enough demand for transport from rural areas, a subsidised bus will be made available courtesy of the Young Musicians' Parents' Association, Perth Youth Orchestra etc.



Members of Perth Youth Orchestra, one of the oldest established youth orchestras in Scotland, enjoy touring parts of Europe, usually every three years. Pupils receiving instruction within the school system also get the chance to attend the annual junior and senior music camps. These residential courses are a unique mixture of hard work, musical creativity and fun, and for many who attend, it is the highlight of their academic year.

Instrumental Music Staff

Co-ordinator of Instrumental Services

Allan R Young

Brass Department

Scott Barker - Trumpet*
Elaine Stewart - Trumpet*
Bob McDonald - Cornet*

* Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all Brass Instruments

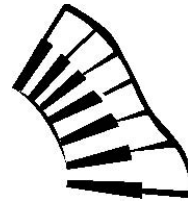
Woodwind Department (Bassoon, Clarinet, Flute, Oboe & Saxophone)

Philip Alexander - Clarinet*
Tim Mitchell - Clarinet*
Eileen Waterston - Bassoon*
Laura Young - Oboe*

* Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all Woodwind Instruments

Piano Department

Liam O'Hare
Barbara Murray
Alison Nairn
Maureen Rutherford



Bagpipes

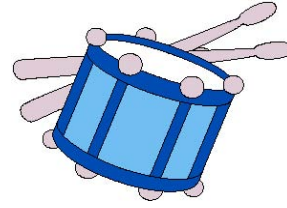
Gordon Rogers

Guitar Department

Adam Bulley
Owen Nicholson
Gordon Baillie

Percussion Department

**Michael Jamieson
Liz Anderson**



Singing

John Carlo Bellotti

String Department

**Alison Nairn - Violin
Lorna McGovern - Violin*
Patrick Smyth - Double Bass*
Jill Smyth - Double Bass*
Jane Tennant - Cello*
Esther Jack - Violin*
Sara Beaton - Violin*
Mhairi MacKinnon - Violin*
David O'Connell - Cello***



* Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all strings

Charges for 2008/2009

The charge for school-based tuition is set at £212.00 per annum

A separate charge of £70.00 per annum will be levied for all pupils who attend Central Group activities

Pupils whose parent/guardian is in receipt of Income Support/Income Based Job Seekers Allowance will be exempt from any charge

Pupils currently engaged in SQA music courses will be exempt from school-based tuition charge

As a result of Youth Music Initiative (YMI) funding, all pupils receiving their first year's tuition in P4 or P5 will be funded by YMI (Scottish Executive's Primary 6 target). After the first year, normal Perth and Kinross charges will apply.

Payments can be made in instalments by prior arrangement. Please contact the Sales Ledger Team on 01738 477440 on receipt of the invoice.

Instrumental Tuition and Central Groups Terms and Condition of Acceptance

Your child is being offered instrumental tuition under the Education Authority's scheme which is subject to acceptance of the following conditions by the parent/guardian concerned:

1 Any pupil commencing instrumental tuition in any session (school year) will be expected to continue throughout that session (school year), and the Education Authority will levy a charge on that basis. For pupils entering tuition during the second or third term of any session (school year), a pro rata charge is made for the remaining part of that session (school year).

2 The tuition charge will be as determined by the Education and Children's Services Committee. The Education Authority reserves the right to alter these charges as necessary, but any alterations made will not normally become operative until the start of the following session.

3 The tuition fee for a session (school year), or any instalment thereof, is not refundable save in exceptional circumstances of which the Education Authority shall be the sole judge when the Education Authority may in their sole discretion refund a tuition fee, or any instalment thereof, in whole or in part. **If a pupil withdraws from music tuition, the parent will be liable for charges until the end of term.**

4 Instruments on loan to pupils for instrumental tuition are provided on the understanding that reasonable care is exercised over their safekeeping. Parents are advised that in the event of evidence that reasonable care has not been exercised, they may be required to contribute towards the repair/replacement cost of the damaged or lost instruments. Pupils/Parents should alert the relevant instructor of any repair required on an authority instrument. The instructor will then arrange for the instrument to be repaired through the Perth and Kinross Instrument Repair Service. **Under no circumstances should any repair on a Perth and Kinross instrument be carried out privately.** Parents are encouraged to take out insurance on Perth and Kinross instruments. In most cases, normal house contents insurance is adequate to cover any damages.

5 The parent or guardian concerned, if so recommended by the tutor, may be asked to consider providing the pupil with his or her own instrument. The Council accepts no liability for any costs incurred in acquiring an instrument.

In most cases, parents will be able to purchase a new instrument through the Perth and Kinross Instrument Purchase Scheme, which allows the pupil to buy an instrument without paying VAT. Full details regarding this scheme are available from all school administrators and instrumental music staff.

6 Tuition and Central Groups provision is provided free where the parents of the pupil are in receipt of Income Support/Income Based Job Seekers Allowance. You will be required to produce proof of receipt of benefit to the Finance/Resource Services. No other benefit or reason qualifies as an entitlement to free Central Groups provision. Tuition is also provided free where a pupil is already following a recognised Scottish Qualifications Authority course in music. No other benefits or reason qualifies as an entitlement to free Instrumental Tuition. Any change of circumstances during the session (school year) must be notified and a charge may be levied.

7 It should be noted that instalments are not 'term fees' and the parent/guardian will be liable for the fee balance outstanding if the pupil discontinues tuition during the session (school year). Reminders are not issued when a payment is due. When a fee is not paid by the payment date, tuition will be discontinued. A pupil will not be allowed to commence tuition in a new session (school year) if fees for a previous session (school year) are outstanding. Legal action may be taken for non payment of fees.

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this prospectus in another language or format, this can be arranged by contacting Lynne Brand on 01738 476311

Information for parents

Lessons in primary school will normally take place at the same time each week.

In secondary school, your child will be withdrawn from their subject classes on a rota basis. The Authority will endeavour to ensure that your child does not regularly miss any one subject.

Where possible, we will try to provide your child with a minimum of 30 lessons (either group or individual) per session and to ensure that each lesson is timetabled for between 15 and 40 minutes (dependent on child's age, group activities within school time etc) during which time, your child may be taught in a small group of no more than 8 pupils.

A minimum of 20 central group sessions will be timetabled as central group provisions.

A full Instrumental Music Service Curriculum/Programme of Study document is available for examination by parents at any school office.

Should your child's lessons be affected by prolonged instructor absence, cover will be provided by the Authority. You will be entitled to a reduction in charges for the following reason only:



If your child received less than 30 lessons in any session due to instructor absence. Any reduction for less than 30 lessons will be on pro rata basis and may only be claimed after the session is complete.

Invoices for charges will be sent to your home address and will include instructions for making payment arrangements. Payments should be made direct to Perth and Kinross Council.

Exemptions from payment are as detailed on the relevant application form. Further to some enquiries from parents regarding modular courses, it is confirmed that such courses are accredited by SQA and therefore any pupil taking an SQA accredited modular course is exempt from charges for the duration of the course.

Access to the service allows your child to study more than one instrument if he/she should wish, subject to the appropriate charges and the selection procedure.