

**Perth and Kinross
Instrumental Music Service**

Prospectus and Terms and Conditions



**Instrumental Music Tuition
and
Central Groups
2026 to 2027**



Foreword

In recognition of the integral part instrumental music plays in pupils' education and welfare, Scottish Government has announced that **instrumental music lessons will continue to be delivered free of charge.**

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

As well as the benefits available to the individual pupil, numbers of instrumental ensembles in school, regional and national youth orchestras and bands continue to develop, offering further musical opportunities.

Instrumental music education, both formal and informal, is recognised as 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.

Some lessons are delivered through the Youth Music Initiative funding from Creative Scotland. This provision is a primary-based offer.

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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 on the arts and enhances the school's profile.
- Instrumental music prepares pupils to make a meaningful contribution towards the artistic life of their community.
- Research has indicated that pupils' attainment in learning and teaching across all subjects within the whole school curriculum is enhanced by studying a musical instrument.

The Perth and Kinross Instrumental Music Service consists of 32 permanent and part-time staff offering instruction on Strings, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Pipe Band Drumming, Piano, Guitar and Bagpipes.

Most 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 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 their everyday life of their own and other cultures.
Research has indicated that these instrumental music skills enhance pupils' overall learning attainment across the whole curriculum as well as enriching personal wellbeing.

The above objectives are particularly enhanced by the Perth and Kinross Central Groups (see pages 6 to 7) which give attending pupils an opportunity to meet, rehearse and socialise with other pupils from all over Perth and Kinross. These groups are an integral part of the Instrumental Music Service and have been carefully structured to run in conjunction with school tuition. **It is expected that pupils receiving instrumental instruction will make every effort to attend these Central Groups and their School Bands to utilise this provision to the maximum.**

Music Tuition Registration

Due to Scottish Government funding, there will continue to be **no charge for instrumental music lessons during 2026 to 2027.**

Pupils, and pupils' parents, will be contacted through their schools with regards to instrument availability of music tuition and how to register their interest.

Due to the high demand for applications, applicants will be assessed for suitability and compatibility and, if necessary, advised as to their best choice of instrument.

Tuition will only commence upon receipt of a completed registration form and when an offer of tuition is made.

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.

Upon commencement, lessons will usually be delivered on a weekly basis and are timetabled for between 20 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. Most of these lessons will be delivered in the first three terms, August 2026 to April 2027. There will still be tuition delivered as much as possible in the summer term however, instructors may be in attendance at residential music courses and the annual Instrumental Music Service Engagement week that are held in the final term.

Should your child's lessons be affected by prolonged instructor absence, cover will be provided by the Authority.

In normal circumstances, pupils will be allowed the opportunity to access instruction on one instrument only. However, in certain circumstances, access to learning a second instrument may occasionally be available, subject to Instructor availability.

The Perth and Kinross Instrumental Music Service will continue to deliver top quality music provision using the best teaching techniques and methods of delivery available. When music tuition is delivered in school pupils will be expected to:

- Only use their GLOW email address. Microsoft Teams is the main tool, and pupils will be expected to check out their instrumental music team regularly for updates
- be punctual for all lessons
- access the files for each lesson in advance and have the materials to hand
- submit all assignments on time in accordance with the agreed protocols
- dress appropriately for all classes, thinking about modesty and respect for others
- seek to contribute to the lesson in a positive manner and not be disruptive at any time
- not share recordings/images of the lesson

Parents of pupils who unfortunately cannot access the Service immediately due to availability of places will receive communication, via email where possible, and the pupil's name will be added to the instructor's waiting list. Parents will be notified if space becomes available in the future.

Loan of instruments via Instrumental Music Service

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

Instrument Purchase Scheme

If recommended by the tutor, parents or guardians 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 Instrumental Music Instructors and the Instrumental Music Service by contacting Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk / 01738 477878.

Staff deployment

Initially, priority of instruction time goes to the secondary schools where Education and Learning Services strive to offer each school an equal, balanced amount of instruction. Instrumental staff will teach a balanced number of pupils from years S1 – S6 to ensure constant pupil progress and to allow opportunity to access the service in 1st year and continue right through until 6th year. 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.

Upon selection, 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.

In the initial stages of tuition, it is widely accepted that group tuition is more beneficial than one-to-one teaching.

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 pages 6 to 7). **It is also the expectation that pupils will join their school band.** 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 tuition.

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 all SQA and Associated Board music examinations if required. Pupils wishing to progress on to Music Colleges, e.g. Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, will be assisted (non-financial) with entrance exams and auditions. Parents will be responsible for Associated Board fees.

The overall standard of instrumental tuition is continuously monitored and assessed and is constantly being developed 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 initially speak to their Instrumental Music Instructor or contact the Instrumental Music Service on Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk / 01738 477878.

Within a very short time of learning, instrumentalists will be able to participate in Central Groups. Participation in Central Groups should be seen as part of instrumental tuition and is regarded as an essential part of lessons.

All Central Groups rehearsals take place in the North Inch Community Campus, Gowans Terrace, Perth, PH1 5BF on the following evenings:

Mondays, 6pm to 8pm

Perth Youth Orchestra (by audition only)

Wednesdays, 6pm to 7.30pm

Brass Band
Concert Band
Guitar Ensemble
Wind Orchestra

Thursdays, 6pm to 7.30pm

Choir
Junior String Orchestra
Senior String Orchestra
Percussion Ensemble
Pipe Band

The rehearsal period for **Perth Youth Orchestra** on Monday evenings is September 2026 to August 2027.

The rehearsal period for **all other Central Groups bands/orchestras** taking place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings is September 2026 to March 2027.

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.

Perth Youth Orchestra is one of the oldest established youth orchestras in Scotland.

Central Groups Fees

Perth Youth Orchestra (Mondays)

The registration fee for attending Perth Youth Orchestra is £150.00 for rehearsals taking place on Monday evenings between September 2026 to August 2027. This one-off registration fee allows attendance at multiple bands/orchestras on Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays evenings.

Central Groups (Wednesdays and Thursdays)

The registration fee for Central Groups bands/orchestras taking place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings is £100.00 for rehearsals between September 2026 to March 2027. This one-off registration fee allows attendance at multiple bands/orchestras on Wednesday and Thursday evenings only.

Exemptions are available to parents on low income. The Perth and Kinross Music Foundation may also be able to provide assistance to costs. Further information regarding help with Central Groups fees is available via our online application link provided below.

[https://my.pkc.gov.uk/service/Reapply for music tuition or apply for central groups](https://my.pkc.gov.uk/service/Reapply%20for%20music%20tuition%20or%20apply%20for%20central%20groups).

Please select "Continue without an account" on the login screen. Please do not login to your MyPKC account as the Central Groups application requires no login.

Instrumental Staff will always discuss the Central Group provision with their pupils at the start of each new session.

Parents will receive notification of confirmation of application and rehearsal/concert dates for the forthcoming session prior to commencement of first rehearsal.

Music Camps

Pupils receiving instruction and/or attending Central Groups may also get the opportunity to attend the annual 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.

Application forms for Music Camps will be issued to pupils attending Central Groups, in the first instance, after commencement of these groups. Places will be opened to all pupils should there still be spaces available nearer to the camp dates. Costs will be confirmed early in the new session.

Note – To enable your child to attend Music Camps, full payment must be received prior to attending camp.

There will be a charge for participation in these music camps, but subsidised places are available through the Young Musicians' Parents' Association (YMPA). Criteria for funding will be included in the camp invitation correspondence.

Instrumental Music Staff

Music Co-ordinator

Lynsey Paterson

Bagpipes/Chanter

Conner Pratt

Graham Mulholland

Brass Department

Denise Crighton-Ward - Trumpet*

Elaine Blackwood - Trumpet*

Gordon Seith - Trombone*

Rachel Whiteman - Trumpet*

Scott Barker - Trumpet*

* Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all Brass Instruments

Guitar Department

Adam Bulley

Guy Bathgate

Owen Nicholson

Percussion Department

Guy Bathgate

Iona Crosby

Max Popp

Peter Murch

Piano Department

Alison Hogg

Pamela McLennan

String Department

Alison Hogg - Violin*

Audrey Mattner - Violin*

Esther Jack - Violin*

Iona Crosby - Double Bass*

Ilse McFarlane - Cello*

Jane Colvin - Cello*

Joelle Broad - Violin*

Joseph Whiteman - Violin*

Lorna McGovern - Violin*

Rachel Steele - Cello*

Sharon Doyle - Violin*

* Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all strings

Woodwind Department

Andrew Mann - Clarinet*

Dorothy Purcell - Clarinet*

Fran Barker - Clarinet*

James Steele - Saxophone*

*Shows principal instrument but qualified to teach all Woodwind instruments

Class Band Vocal (Primaries only)

Joseph Whiteman

Pamela McLennan

Zoe Perman

Instrumental Tuition and Central Groups Terms and Conditions of Acceptance

Your child being offered instrumental tuition under the Perth and Kinross Council scheme is subject to acceptance of the following conditions by the parent/guardian concerned:

- An online application **must** be submitted for each pupil who wishes to access the Instrumental Music Service. Lessons will not be provided to pupils if no application has been received.
- **It is strongly advised that pupils receiving tuition in school strive to attend one of the Central Groups, and school bands, as this is recognised as an integral part of tuition. ****

****Pupils will normally access Central Groups after their first year of instruction.**

- 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 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.

- If recommended by the tutor, the parent or guardian concerned 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 Instrumental Music Instructors and the Instrumental Music Service by contacting Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk / 01738 477878.

Central Groups

- No refunds will be made for missed sessions.

- An application form must be submitted for each pupil who wishes to access Central Groups. Services will not be provided to pupils if completed application forms and payment have not been received.

- The charge for central groups will be as determined by the Council. Perth and Kinross Council 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.
- Central Groups provision is provided free where the parents of the pupil are in receipt of a PKC Clothing Grant for session 2026/27. No other benefit or reason qualifies as an entitlement to free Central Groups provision, but parents may apply to Perth and Kinross Music Foundation for financial assistance with charges. Any change of circumstances during the session (school year) must be notified and a charge/refund may be levied.
- **If a pupil wishes to withdraw from lessons, written notice must be given to their instructor or emailed to the Instrumental Music Service on Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk**
- **If a pupil wishes to withdraw from Central Groups, written notice must be emailed to the Instrumental Music Service on Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk**
- **Communication**
 - Parents: All communication from the Instrumental Music Service will be emailed to parents based on the email address provided on the music tuition application form.
 - Pupils: Communication from the Instrumental Music Instructor will be given via Microsoft Teams. **Parent communication to the instructor should not be through Teams as this is a pupil platform. All parent communication should be done via email.**

Should your contact details change throughout the course of the year, please inform the Instrumental Music Service by emailing Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk so records can be updated.

Due to data protection, we can only contact the named parent/guardian stated on the application form when enrolling your child for both tuition and Central Groups.

Instrumental Music Service Contact Details

Instrumental Music Service
Perth and Kinross Council
North Inch Community Campus
Gowans Terrace
PERTH
PH1 5BF

Lynsey Paterson: Music Co-ordinator (01738 477873)
Michelle Henderson: Management Assistant (01738 477878)

Website: [Instrumental Music Service - Perth & Kinross Council](#)
Email: Musicservice@pkc.gov.uk
Facebook – [PKC Music Service](#)

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

BSL users can contact us via Contact Scotland BSL, the online British Sign Language video relay interpreting service. Find out more on the Contact Scotland BSL website <https://contactscotland-bsl.org>