



Oakhurst Grange School

Peripatetic Music Lessons Policy

Rationale.

Above all, peripatetic music lessons should further a pupil's enjoyment of music. They should give children opportunity to express themselves, as well as increase self-confidence and motivation. Children will experience a variety of musical styles within their specific area of study in order to develop their appreciation of their chosen instrument.

All pupils (as well as parents and staff) are made aware of the level of commitment required to learn an instrument.

Objectives.

- To give children the opportunity to focus their music-making through participation in instrumental lessons.
- To give children support in selecting the appropriate instrument that they wish to learn.
- To learn how to express ideas through music.
- To learn to play music in a variety of styles and from a variety of cultures.
- To encourage self-expression and increase self-confidence.
- To develop musicality.

1. Key Staff

The Head of Music at Oakhyrst has overall responsibility for the organisation of peripatetic instrumental lessons and reports to the Headmaster. The Head of Music will ensure that parents and children are aware of the range and availability of instrumental lessons at Oakhyrst and will liaise with both accordingly. Information regarding instrumental lessons will be given to year 1 and 2 parents in the summer term.

There are 5 peripatetic instrumental teachers working at Oakhyrst each week. These teachers offer the following instrumental lessons:

- Mrs Mary Byers - Cello and Piano (including jazz piano)
- Mrs Deborah Stevens - Singing and Piano
- Mr Jason Gardner - Brass, Clarinet, Saxophone, Guitar and Theory
- Mrs Judy Gosling - Violin, Piano and Theory
- Mrs Judy Baker – Fife and Flute

All peripatetic teachers at Oakhyrst are self-employed.

2. Organisation of Peripatetic Instrumental Lessons

The Head of Music will organise and write a Peripatetic Lesson Timetable at the start of each new term. Wherever possible, the core subjects of English, Maths and Science will not be missed for peripatetic music lessons. However, given the quantity of lessons taken and the availability of the peripatetic staff, this is not possible for every pupil. Priority will be given to Year 6, then Year 5, and so on.

At the beginning of each term students are notified when instrumental lessons will commence. Notification for new pupils will be by letter to parents. It is the responsibility of each student to check the time and venue of their instrumental lessons, although members of staff are advised to be aware of peripatetic lesson times and to send children to them accordingly. Timetables are displayed outside the general office and on the notice board in the music office. Class teachers have a timetable of their pupils' lessons. All members of staff at Oakhyrst are made aware that students receive instrumental tuition and grant permission for them to leave timetabled lessons at the appropriate time. In order to ensure students do not always miss the same lessons each week, lesson times within the same year group are often rotated accordingly.

If a peripatetic lesson clashes with a school event (most commonly a sports fixture), the Head of Music will liaise with the peripatetic teachers to change the lesson times.

3. Lesson Arrangements

Instrumental tuition is provided weekly by peripatetic music teachers. These teachers are carefully selected and are well-qualified specialists.

The duration of a lesson is 30 minutes, although some younger children beginning instrumental lessons may start with 20 minute lessons, at the discretion of the parents, peripatetic teacher and form teacher.

Children should arrive at their lessons on time, with their instrument (where necessary), music books and notebook. *Instruments belonging to pupils must be properly insured against all risk. The school cannot accept responsibility for damage, however caused, whilst they are on the premises. (see paragraph 7)*

The pupil can expect the teacher to begin and end lessons on time.

When a lesson is missed by a pupil due to an incident beyond their control (e.g. illness, bereavement, weather etc), the teacher will endeavour to make up that lesson at a time to suit the teacher's convenience.

When lessons are missed by a pupil for other reasons (e.g. holiday during term time), the teacher is not obligated to make up or refund this lesson.

When lessons are missed by a teacher, those lessons will be made up at a time to suit the pupil's convenience whenever possible, or else refunded in full.

Instrumental teachers prepare a report for each pupil in the Summer term at the same times as their full school report.

4. Payment of Fees

- Fees should be paid by the start of term, and sent to the individual music teachers NOT to the school
- If fees are late, teachers are not obliged to continue teaching the pupil until they have received the full payment.
- A full term's notice is required in writing to discontinue lessons. This must be handed in to the instrumental teacher before the start of the first lesson of that term. This gives the Head of Music time to fill the vacancy for that teacher.

5. Attendance at rehearsals and concerts

It is expected that students receiving instrumental tuition at Oakhyrst will eventually attend at least one extra curricular musical activity per week. Currently these include: Brass ensemble, Clarinet ensemble, Saxophone ensemble, Guitar ensemble, Violin ensemble, Flute ensemble, Orchestra and Chamber Choir. Students need to realise that regular attendance is very important and that their attendance at concerts, festivals, competitions and other special occasions is also very important.

Fees for ensembles are divided between the members of the group. There is a price cap at £25 per term, at which point the school pays the remainder.

7. Security of Instruments

All instruments should be covered by an adequate insurance policy of accidental damage, loss or theft, as Oakhyrst is unable to accept liability for any loss or damage to instruments and no insurance cover is provided by the school. Parents are asked to ensure that their child's instrument is clearly labelled with his/her name and address. Instruments should be left in the music room where their lessons take place and should be taken home at the end of each day.

8. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually.

MBy 06/11/18