



Stockport Music Service, The Fairway, Stockport, SK2 5DS
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Dear Parent/Carer,

As your child has shown an interest in playing a musical instrument or singing, this pack is designed to provide you with information to help your decision making and answer any questions you might have about the way the instrumental tuition is structured and delivered.

Playing an instrument and singing can be the pathway to a lifelong enjoyment of music making and participation in ensembles. A small number of children we teach may go on to become professional musicians and teachers themselves, although the majority will continue their music making in an amateur capacity purely for enjoyment and social reasons. It is amazing, for instance, to note how many doctors, solicitors and other professionals continue to play in adult life.

In addition to the instrumental tuition provided in school, the Music Service works with a range of partners to provide ensemble opportunities for all Stockport pupils and we strongly encourage joining a group at the earliest opportunity. There are groups for all abilities, ranging from complete beginners to accomplished soloists so there is a group suitable for every player, no matter what standard or instrument.

Performing in an ensemble provides many benefits for pupils as they are learning; it strengthens their general musical skills, improves listening, counting, concentration, teamwork and collaboration, in addition to providing a valuable incentive to practise!

Learning a musical instrument is a process of continual improvement that is best achieved through the trusted approach of doing a little, but doing it often. This allows for pupils to develop good habits in both playing and concentration. The enjoyment that playing can give is then written strongly across the faces of pupils as they perform and hopefully this can be true for your child too.

Included in this pack are examples of standard letters and contracts plus information on instrument care, ensembles, exams and practice tips. Should you have any queries or wish to speak to us further then do not hesitate to contact the office using the details above.

Yours faithfully

Craig Eastwood
Head of Music Service