

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Children taught by Stockport Music Service have access to a range of accredited examinations that are internationally recognised. While we recognise that exams are not appropriate at all times, for many children they provide an incentive to practice and a focus for attention. This process of exam preparation is built into lesson as required and allows pupils the opportunity to strive for and earn a tangible reward for their efforts.

If children wish to take an exam, this will be discussed with the relevant teacher and an appropriate grade of exam decided. Once the exam is determined, parents are given information to help inform their children and the tutor concerned will ensure they are fully prepared from a technical and musical point of view.

The majority of exams taken by our pupils are awarded by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and range from Preparatory exams through Grades 1-8 as children advance in their musical learning. Other examining boards are used when this is better suited to an individual pupil's abilities and interests, such as Trinity Guildhall or Rock School, but again, these are all nationally recognised awards.

Exam sessions take place three times in each year so there are plenty of opportunities to enter pupils as they reach the right level and an example letter that would be sent you is enclosed for your information.

INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS

In addition to external examinations, all Stockport Music Service staff teach to our Programme of Study, a copy of which can be sent to you if required. This sets out the different stages involved in learning and instrument and allows all staff to plan a coherent pathway through new musical techniques and understanding for individual pupils, allowing them to make the best possible progress.

Teachers continually assess pupils' progress and ensure that they learn in an holistic manner, where no one part of playing is more important than another and all parts of being a good musician are balanced. There is an annual report for parents sent home in the Summer term and you are also welcome to use a practice diary or notebook to communicate with teachers throughout the year. This allows for a clear outline of what is to be practised by pupils and how, alongside a means for you to comment or ask questions of the teacher as we firmly believe that pupils will make faster progress if there is a partnership between the Music Service and home, as with any other subject studied in school.