

Extra Curricular Music Opportunities at Sonning Common Primary School

There is a wide range of opportunities to play an instrument at SCPS and three different types of organisations supply these. Private companies (who provide instrumental tuition to children by arrangement with their parents, but in school time using a school room), charitable music providers and the County Music Service teachers (who are part of the county music staff). The main differences between the groups is that the county music service fees also cover attendance at the area music school on a Saturday morning and lots of opportunities to play with others, and they take part in Trinity Guildhall music exams when appropriate. Other companies may offer extra activities and can enter pupils for exams. Most groups are able to provide instrument hire so that you do not have to buy an instrument, until your child is sure that they want to play it in the long term. In order to help people to find music information there is a folder of leaflets and forms in the lobby letter rack. All providers bill parents direct although fees for each service obviously differ.

What can children learn at SCPS?

We currently have teachers for clarinet, flute, saxophone, cornet, trumpet, piano, recorder, drums, guitar.

Who can learn?

We usually recommend that children begin to learn most instruments as they enter the juniors (KS2), so that they can cope with reading instructions and getting themselves to and from their music lessons. Infants (KS1) children also find it more difficult to catch up what they have missed in class, until they are more independent learners. If you feel that your child is ready to learn an instrument please consult their class teacher before making arrangements which may affect their class room learning.

Year 6 children can also join Glee club (singing) and Jazz club within school.

Our partners for music tuition currently are:

- Music for Schools Foundation – woodwind and brass instruments (for more information see www.mfsf.org.uk). There is also a tuition fact sheet in the music folder in the school lobby. A lead tutor from MfSF visits the school most years to talk to interested children and parents about the service they provide, usually around January time.
- Recorder lessons with Mr Marples – contact via the school office
- Piano – Tuition – Please speak to Mrs Matthews about your child learning the piano
- Drumming lessons- with Mr Davies – contact via the school office
- Guitar Beginners Groups – currently with Mrs Humm – there is a waiting list for this group – contact the school office.

The County Music Service offers tuition for strings, woodwind, brass, percussion, guitar and keyboard. *The County will provide these services only if there is sufficient interest to set up a group of learners unless individual tuition is requested, and a tutor already attends a local school. We do not currently have county music tutors at Sonning Common.* For more information please see the County Music service website (www.oxon.gov.uk then look under 'Education and learning', 'Extra curricular activities').

Opportunities to play in front of an audience:

Most of the music teachers arrange for pupils to play in assembly from time to time, children can request to play in assembly but need to be of a reasonable standard and confident enough to play in front of an audience. Children who learn instruments outside of school are of course welcome to play in an assembly.

How do I start?

Look in the Music information folder in the school lobby for more information.

Complete the relevant application/enquiry form at least one term before your child wishes to start learning an instrument.

For most providers you can complete an expression of interest form and hand it in to the office or put it in the drop box and the office staff will pass it to the relevant teacher. For County Music lessons please contact the music service directly. The Music for Schools Foundation can also be contacted directly, please see details on the Tuition Fact Sheet included in the folder.