

Care of instruments

Pupils may have the chance to take instruments home from school for practice. If you have the instrument at home, we strongly advise that you:

- Insure it through your household contents policy or a specialist musical instrument insurance company
- Take good care of it and follow advice given by the ArtForms tutor
- Keep the instrument away from extremes of heat and cold
- *Do not try to repair it yourself!* If it seems to be broken, don't panic. Our tutors can often carry out minor repairs or recommend a qualified technician (major damage is very rare) We can also suggest suitable repairers for school instruments
- Only use recommended polishes, chemicals or oils

How you can help your child

Good progress and enthusiasm go together. Your interest and encouragement will help, especially if the going becomes tough. All instruments need patience, especially when pupils are first beginning to learn.

Practice is essential if your child wants to improve; Ten minutes daily is enough to begin with. Pupils will be given instructions, but they may need a reminder from you. It will be best if you can set aside a regular time each day in a quiet space.

Encourage your child to make music with others as soon as it is appropriate. He or she will enjoy the social benefits as well as the teamwork, the opportunities for self-expression and a sense of achievement. Many schools have their own music groups, plus there are several local Music Centres and City of Leeds Youth Music groups that your child can join when he or she is ready.

For more information about the Music Centres, CLYM groups or anything else we do please visit our website -

www.artformsleeds.co.uk

or contact us on the telephone number/email address overleaf.



Instrumental Music Teaching Guidance Notes for Parents/Carers

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Tel: 0113 378 2850 Fax: 0113 336 7427
Email: educ.artforms@leeds.gov.uk



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted that your child is now one of about 7,500 Leeds school children receiving instrumental and/or vocal lessons in school from the ArtForms team.

I know that you will want to support your child in reaching his/her full potential in music and these notes are intended to provide some information to help you.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor through school or myself at the ArtForms office if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Brookes
Head of Music Service

ArtForms

ArtForms is part of Leeds City Council and has a long track record of excellence in music teaching and other arts activities.

Our musician teachers have high-quality teaching and musical skills and are all specialists in the family of instruments they are teaching or in vocal studies.

In 2011, we were rated as an 'Outstanding Music Service' by The Federation of Music Services evaluation programme.

We also provide many other musical activities including:

- Music projects in schools and clusters of schools
- Music Centres which are open to adults as well as children
- Concerts and performances for schools
- City of Leeds Youth Music groups

Further information is available from the ArtForms office.

Instrumental/Vocal Lessons

These usually take place during the school day.

You may be concerned about your child missing other lessons, however pupils learning to sing or play an instrument do as well, or better, in their other work than those who do not, so their other school work is likely to benefit.

Some schools operate a rotation system for instrumental and vocal lessons.

Provision of instrument and equipment

Instruments may:

- belong to the pupil;
- be borrowed from school;
- be hired from us, by your school;
- be bought through our 'Instrument Purchase Scheme' for pupils taught by our tutors. This scheme enables you to buy a new instrument through your child's school at heavily discounted VAT-free prices (details available from school);
- be bought second-hand following advice from the teacher;
- be bought through one of the rental-purchase schemes operated by most local music shops

You will probably be asked to provide a tutor book and a few other necessary items, such as reeds or strings, as appropriate.

Your child will need:
