



Q.1 Is the Instrumental Music Service part of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)

A. Yes. CfE includes the totality of experiences which are planned for children and young people through their education, wherever they are being educated.

Learning to play in instrument makes an important contribution to young people's learning, both in music and across the curriculum. The instrumental music service also offers opportunities to participate in bands, orchestras, choirs and ensembles, and play in concerts and at events, all of which contribute to the development of confidence and a wide range of skills.

The Scottish Government has produced a CfE Factfile which explains some of the terms that are used in Curriculum for Excellence and there is also a dedicated website for parents about CfE called [parentzone Curriculum for Excellence](#)

Q.2 My child is interested in learning to play in instrument – how do I find out about accessing music tuition in school?

A. Instructors send letters home when they are recruiting new cohorts onto their timetables. This would normally be in P4 for strings and P5 for other instruments. In most schools there are usually more children wanting to learn than available places. If you have not received any letter home or want to find out about instrumental instruction you should contact your child's school in the first instance.

Q.3 How much does tuition cost?

A. The City of Edinburgh Council continues to offer free instrumental music provision for pupils in P4 and beyond. Participation in bands, orchestras, choirs and ensembles is also free, although some special events such as tours may attract a fee to cover additional costs. Certain ancillary items (such as music books, music stands, strings, reeds and valve oil) may need to be purchased from time to time. If you are likely to have any difficulty with these occasional costs please either let the school know or contact the IMS Business and Events Manager: alix.knox@edinburgh.gov.uk

Q.4 What instruments could my child learn to play?

A. The City of Edinburgh council offers tuition on all Orchestral and Wind Band Instruments as well as Clarsach, Guitar, Percussion, Piano/Keyboard and Voice. Primary schools offer some of the above instruments, and secondary schools usually offer most of them. Pupils studying bagpipes or pipe band drumming for SQA may request a weekly lesson free of charge. This request will be made via the school.

There are different instruments available in each primary school depending on the allocation of instructors to the cluster. The school office can advise

which instruments are available. Depending which school your child attends, one or more of the following will be offered:

- Upper strings
- Lower strings
- Brass
- Wind

In each secondary school the instruments above are offered, plus:

- Voice
- Guitar
- Keyboard/piano
- Percussion/drum kit

Clarsach is available in Taobh na Pairce (Parkside), St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School and James Gillespie's High School.

Bagpipes and Pipe Band Drumming instruction is only available for pupils on SQA timetables (S3 and above). Your school can request a weekly half hour lesson on your behalf.

Pupils attending Special Schools can request an assessment for instrumental lessons by contacting alix.knox@edinburgh.gov.uk

New starts on instruments can be arranged at other times during the year, depending on timetable availability. You should contact your school in the first instance and the instructor there will be able to advise you.

Q.5 How will my child be selected for tuition?

A. Pupils will be selected for tuition based on general aptitude, ear tests, instrument specific criteria and the pupil's willingness to learn and actively participate. Should your child be selected and there is a shortage of available instruments, instructors will contact you to discuss options (such as purchase or hire) and may place your child on a waiting list.

Q.6 What is the frequency and duration of lessons?

A. Lessons take place during school hours once a week and usually last around half an hour. This may vary based on the length of individual school periods but 25 – 35 minutes is usual. Schools allow pupils out of a timetabled lesson to attend their instrumental lesson.

Q.7 Will my child receive individual or group tuition?

A. Group sizes can vary according to the level and stage being taught, grade, instrument type, available room size etc. Most are small groups where pupils benefit from both individual attention and peer-learning. Pupils *may* receive individual lessons for the following reasons:

- prior to SQA Higher or Advanced Higher presentations
- they are the only pupil in the school learning an instrument at a particular level

A minimum group size should be 2 pupils. Ultimately the group size will be dictated by a number of factors (size of room, number of pupils learning that instrument etc) and will be locally determined.

Q.8 Are Instrumental Instructors registered teachers?

A. Some City of Edinburgh Council instructors are GTCS (General Teaching Council for Scotland) registered and all are employed as Instrumental Teachers (Instructors) on teaching terms and conditions. All Instructors are subject to PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) scheme update. All Instructors are contractually required by City of Edinburgh Council to undertake regular Child Protection training.

Instrumental Music Teachers (instructors) can now apply for GTCS registration by demonstrating they meet the GTCS Standards for Provisional and then Full registration.

Generally, all new instrumental music instructors entering the teaching profession have an appropriate qualification (Diploma; Degree etc) from an approved College, University or Conservatoire. The experiential learning route allows access to full registration for instrumental music instructors who do not possess the appropriate academic qualifications.

Q.9 Will I have to buy the instrument that my child wishes to play?

A. Wherever possible your school or the service will provide an instrument learn on. On occasion, more specialised instruments may be provided by The City of Edinburgh Council although this is rare. The expectation is that as your child progresses in their learning you would purchase or hire an instrument. Your child's instrumental instructor will advise on the insurance, maintenance and repair of instruments on loan to your child.

Q.10 Is there any financial assistance available for purchasing instruments?

A. The Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme (AIPS) enables the VAT free purchase of instruments. Once the instrument is chosen by the pupil/parent/carer, the school places a formal order with a recognised supplier and the ex-VAT price is payable to the school (usually when the school places the order).

If your instructor cannot provide an instrument and you cannot afford to buy one please contact your school and alix.knox@edinburgh.gov.uk. We may be able to source an instrument for your child to borrow.

Q.11 Can my child learn an instrument for longer than one year?

A. Yes. As long as your child is fulfilling the agreement which you will be required to sign when they take up the opportunity, your child can continue to receive tuition for as long as they wish. Your child's school will have its own parental agreement.

Q.12 Can my child learn more than one instrument?

A. No. It is important that as many young people as possible have access to free tuition. If your child is required by SQA to present on 2 instruments you may access a second instrument taught by the classroom music teacher. Please refer to your Music Teacher and /or Curriculum Leader in this case.

Q.13 Will Instrumental Tuition support my child's learning through to SQA (National 4/5, Higher and Advanced Higher)?

- A. Yes, as long as pupils are fulfilling the agreement which you will be required to sign when your child takes up the opportunity of music tuition.

Q.14 Do instructors present pupils on other music exams?

- A. Yes, both instructors and schools often present pupils for examinations such as Associated Board and Trinity College graded exams. There is a charge for these examinations which would normally be paid by the parent / carer of the pupil.

Q.15 What opportunities are there for my child to play in centrally organised orchestras, bands and ensembles and to access a range of performance opportunities?

- A. Please contact your instructor or alix.knox@edinburgh.gov.uk for up to date information on rehearsal and concert dates.

The Instrumental Music Service offers the following centrally organised performance opportunities:

- ESSO (Edinburgh Secondary Schools Orchestra)
A full scale symphony orchestra which rehearses to participate in IMS ventures such as the annual Fanfare concert. Led by an experienced conductor and team of section coaches, members are expected to be ABRSM grade 5+.
- ESTO (Edinburgh Schools Training Orchestra)
A full symphony orchestra for ABRSM grade 3-5 players designed to prepare young musicians for joining ESSO. This orchestra also participates in at least one annual gala concert such as the Childline Charity concert..
- ESRE (Edinburgh Schools Rock Ensemble)
A 24 piece rock collective which takes part in various concerts and events throughout the school year. ESRE normally records a C.D. each year prior to going on tour.
- ESJO (Edinburgh Schools Jazz Orchestra)
For Wind, Brass, Kit, Guitar and Bass players at Grade 5 and beyond, our Jazz Orchestra provides regular opportunities to perform in a variety of locations with frequent partnerships both within Scotland and in other countries. ESJO often record live and studio C.D.s
- ESWE (Edinburgh Schools Wind Ensemble)
For Wind, Brass and Percussion players at Grade 5 and beyond, ESWE offers the chance to play music aimed at the enhancing the skills learnt in school ensembles. ESWE has often participated in national competitions and has given 1st performances of new works by leading composers.
- ESCGE (Edinburgh Schools Classical Guitar Ensemble) and ESJGO (Edinburgh Schools Junior Guitar Orchestra)
A chamber ensemble of 24 players ABRSM grade 4+ exploring music from the renaissance to the present day and a junior guitar orchestra which can accommodate 100+ musicians depending upon the event and venue.

Cluster based music opportunities

The music service regularly facilitates activities for music making at cluster level. This includes primary and secondary school pupils playing music together and performing in concerts with ensembles across the city.

Where possible, the IMS works in partnership with national organisations such as the BBC, The Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) and The Royal National Scottish Orchestra (RSNO) etc. and can facilitate master classes and workshops by visiting artists. (previous examples have included master classes with Nicola Benedetti and Julian Lloyd Webber).

School based music opportunities

Individual primary and secondary schools across the city offer a variety of rehearsal and performing opportunities throughout the school session. School groups range from full orchestras and bands to smaller chamber groups, including quartets and trios involving mixed instrument groups. Genres can range from baroque and early music consorts to jazz, rock and pop bands, and traditional music groups. Performance opportunities include community events and end of term school concerts and ceremonies. The IMS increasingly invites school based groups to perform in high profile events such as the annual Childline charity concert and more intimate venues within the community such as day care centres.

Pupils are regularly invited to perform at local and national events, conferences, receptions etc. where they are great ambassadors for their school and for the city.

Q.16 How can my child sign up for these opportunities and is there a limit to how many?

A. At the start of each session the IMS produces an application form that includes all the rehearsal days and performance opportunities for the central ensembles, your child's instrumental instructor will pass on this form. Opportunities for performing at school level will be co-ordinated by either your music instructor or class music teacher. The IMS often organises opportunities for pupils to perform with other pupils from both neighbouring schools and across the city. These events are by invitation either through your music instructor or direct from the IMS

Q.17 Can my child sign up for centrally organised orchestras, bands and ensembles if they learn music privately rather than through the IMS?

A. Yes. The IMS believes that ensemble music making should be open to all

Q.18 if my child is progressing well or we feel that some extra help is needed can we pay for additional tuition?

A. It is not recommended that a pupil learns from more than one instructor on the same instrument, in order to ensure good technique is acquired. Instructors should not be giving additional private lessons to the pupils they teach in school. Should you wish to pay for additional instruction this should be privately arranged and must take place out of school. This would free up a place in the instructor's timetable for a new pupil. If you arrange private tuition with another teacher, you must inform the school and your child will no longer be able to access free tuition in school. This ensures as many children as possible have opportunities to learn an instrument.

NB Learning with a private teacher does not exclude your child from free participation in school, cluster and centrally organised bands, ensembles, choirs and orchestras.

Q.19 What should I do if my child wishes to cease learning their instrument?

A. Pupils may decide to cease lessons for a variety of reasons. Whatever the reason, you must inform the school and instrumental instructor as soon as possible that your child wishes to stop lessons and send the cessation of lesson form into the school.

Q.20 Should I expect instructors to report on my child's progress?

A. Yes. Reporting is included in the instructors' duties. Schools support instructors by ensuring they are aware of and contribute to school reporting requirements and are present at parent evenings. You may contact the instructor directly through the school if you have any particular concerns.

Q.21 What happens in the event of heavy snow or other inclement weather?

A. Music instructors will make every effort to report to their timetabled school and deliver the normal weekly lesson. Should they be unable to get to work, they must inform the school. If you are unsure whether the instructor is present, you should contact the school office for an update. If you decide it is unwise for your child to transport his/her instrument to school, lessons will be tailored by the instructor to include elements of music education such as rhythmic training or theoretical development.

If there is severe weather on the day of a centrally organised rehearsal (e.g. ESSO, ESRE etc.), information will be posted on The City of Edinburgh Council website:

www.edinburgh.gov.uk and www.forthone.com

Q.22 What should I do if I have a concern or complaint?

A. In the first instance you should contact your school. Complaints should be addressed to the Head Teacher in primary schools or the Curriculum Leader in secondary schools. The school will inform the Arts and Creative Learning team where line management of the IMS lies.

Q.23 How can I find out about events such rehearsals, concerts and parental liaison evenings?

A. Schools communicate with parents/carers in a variety of ways such as news letters and via the school website. These will often include information on centrally organised bands and orchestras as well as school and cluster based music activities. Schools inform parents of parental liaison evenings.

If your child is signed up to a centrally organised orchestra, choir, band or ensemble the instrumental music service will contact you by newsletters and email. Information on rehearsal schedules can also be accessed on The City of Edinburgh Council web site.

Q.24 If my child is unsuccessful in getting instrumental lessons in school what other opportunities are there to learn?

Arts and Creative Learning
Instrumental Music – Key Information
For Parents / Carers

- A.** The Youth Music Initiative (YMI) offers free blocks of lessons in P3 delivered by NYCoS (National Youth Choirs of Scotland) and in P4/5 delivered by YMI tutors. This is available in every school. P5,5 and 7 pupils can attend Sounds Like Friday at a number of centres across the city and Sounds Like Saturday at Broughton High School. The Inclusive Classroom is delivered by Drake Music Scotland in Special Schools. Highly skilled music practitioners deliver workshops, lessons and performance opportunities. There is a Performance Pipe and Drumming Band that rehearses once a week and offers coaching for pipers and drummers. For more information on all YMI projects and opportunities please contact frances.rive@edinburgh.gov.uk or carla.hay@edinburgh.gov.uk

Is there anything else you would like to know? If so please contact the Instrumental Music service.

All enquiries should be addressed to:
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List of abbreviations used in the Key Information:

CfE	Curriculum for Excellence
IMS	Instrumental Music Service
GTCS	General Teaching Council for Scotland
SQA	Scottish Qualifications Authority
PVG	Protecting Vulnerable Groups
ESSO	Edinburgh Secondary Schools Orchestra
ESWB	Edinburgh Schools Wind Band
ESCGE	Edinburgh Schools Classical Guitar Ensemble
ESGO	Edinburgh Schools Guitar Orchestra
ESJO	Edinburgh Schools Jazz Orchestra
ESRE	Edinburgh Schools Rock Ensemble
LSSRS	Lothian Schools Strathspey and Reel Society
ESTO	Edinburgh Schools Training Orchestra
ESCGE	Edinburgh Schools Classical Guitar Ensemble
ESJGO	Edinburgh Schools Junior Guitar Orchestra
SCO	Scottish Chamber Orchestra
RSNO	Royal Scottish National Orchestra
AIPS	Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme
VAT	Value Added Tax
YMI	Youth Music Initiative
NYCoS	National Youth Choirs of Scotland