

Who provides tuition?

The SELB Music Service through a team of visiting tutors.

Which instruments are taught?

All orchestral instruments, some band instruments and recorder. Please note that we are unable to offer tuition on piano or keyboard.

Where do the lessons take place?

Usually in schools. Pupils receiving tuition who transfer to a school where tuition is not available will normally be offered a lesson at the nearest Music Centre. Advanced tuition also takes place in the Music Centres.

Is tuition available in every school?

Unfortunately, finance does not allow us to reach every school. Tuition is constantly reviewed in terms of the level of support within the school. We try to start some new schools every year but, without an increase in funding, this can be difficult or impossible to achieve.

What is expected of the school?

- provide adequate accommodation
- permit pupils to be released from class to attend music lessons
- back up as necessary the work of Music Service Tutors
- make the best use of the resources being offered.

How long are the lessons?

On average, lessons last for 15-20 minutes. Occasionally a shared lesson may last longer - up to a maximum of 30 minutes.

When do the lessons take place?

During school hours or after school up to 4.45pm. Advanced tuition is also offered in the evenings.

Will my child have to miss classes to attend music lessons?

Yes. The school gives permission for pupils to be released from class. Tutors make every effort to rotate the timetable so that pupils are not missing from the same class every week.

How does my child get tuition?

1. Child attends a school where tuition is available.
2. Initial aptitude test taken in appropriate year group when there are vacancies.
3. Assessment of child's achievement in school musical activities.
4. Tutor assessment for suitable instrument.

Can my child choose to play a particular instrument?

In most cases instruments are offered as they become available from tutors' stock and in line with the needs of the school and / or the Music Service. It is usually difficult to offer a choice.

Does my child need to have an instrument?

If your child is selected for tuition an instrument will normally be provided.

What happens if the instrument is lost or damaged?

This should be reported to the tutor immediately. We have our own instrument workshop that deals with repairs and replacements.

What is expected of my child if he/she gets a place?

- regular daily practice.
- care of the instrument.
- regular attendance at lessons.
- commitment to both SELB and school ensembles.

What is expected of me as a parent?

Give encouragement to your child and support to Music Service and school activities. Make sure that daily practice is taking place.

How will I know how my child is progressing?

Reports are issued annually by the tutor. These are followed by annual parent/teacher consultations at each of the three Music Centres. Examinations and ensemble membership are also an indication of progress.

Do I have to pay for lessons if my child is selected?

Your school pays an annual contributory charge for instrumental tuition and has the right to pass these charges on to you. Some schools may be in a position to subsidize tuition costs and so there may be differences in charging arrangements from one school to another.

You will also be required to pay a fee to the Music Service for the following services:-

- instrument loan and repairs
- music and accessories
- theory tuition
- centre - based tuition
- examination fees for the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music
- membership of Music Service Ensembles.

Is there any financial help for parents towards fees and charges?

Families on income support are exempt from the charges for membership of orchestras, band and ensembles. All parents must be prepared to pay for music, instrument accessories and exam fees. Each school will operate its own remission policy to cover the charges for school based tuition.

Will my child be able to join a Music Service Orchestra or Band?

Yes, depending on successful audition and availability of places. This is a vital part of Music Service activity. Saturday attendance is compulsory and Junior Ensembles are strongly encouraged.

Every pupil should be capable of being a member of a youth orchestra or band or ensemble at some stage.

Will there be exams?

Exams are not compulsory but they are recommended as an excellent indication of progress. The Music Service uses the examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Exams are available from beginner to diploma standard. Pupils are also prepared for theory exams and for GCSE and A level practicals.

Can my child's tuition be stopped?

We are always conscious of the demand for places and therefore tuition is carefully monitored to ensure that students are taking full advantage of the service we provide.

If progress, attendance at lessons or general aptitude are not satisfactory lessons will be terminated.

Attendance at Saturday orchestra and band is compulsory once the pupil is awarded a place. Participation in school orchestra/band is also required.

Although we try to offer an alternative, tuition cannot be guaranteed if your child moves to a school where tuition is not already provided.

We cannot continue to provide tuition or lend an instrument if your child moves to a school outside the SELB. You should approach the new school or ELB about their provision.

Where can I get further advice or information?

Your school may be able to help or contact staff at one of our three Music Centres at:-

Eithne Benson - Head of Music Service

Portadown Music Centre

Tel: 028 3833 2371 Fax: 028 3839 4525

Seamus Dinsmore

Head of Orchestras, Bands & Ensembles

Dungannon Music Centre

Tel: 028 8772 4379 Fax: 028 8775 2138

Elaine Mills - Senior Tutor

Portadown Music Centre

Tel: 028 3833 2371 Fax: 028 3839 4525

Nuala Curran - Senior Tutor

Newry Music Centre

Tel: 028 3026 2357 Fax: 028 3025 7585



SEIB Instrumental
Tuition
for my child?
A Guide for Parents