

Wigan Music Service

Park Road, Hindley,
Wigan, WN2 3RY.
Tel: 01942 776169
Email: a.thomas3@wigan.gov.uk
www.wigan.gov.uk/musicservice

Date: March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Starting to Play the Guitar, Violin/Viola, Cello or a Brass Instrument in School

Today, teachers from Wigan Music Service gave a demonstration of **Guitar, Violin/Viola, Cello and Brass instruments** in school. Following this demonstration, your child expressed an interest in learning to play an instrument. This is a great time to sign up for lessons in school from one of our professionally qualified instrumental teachers who will visit school each week. Learning any musical instrument can be an especially rewarding activity. These instruments are particularly well supported in the Wigan borough, through many of our Wigan Music Service bands and ensembles.

Brass instruments, cellos and guitars are available to children in Y3 or above. (Younger children are generally too small.)

Violins and Violas are available from Year 2 upwards.

The **COST** of learning varies a little from school to school but is normally somewhere in the region of £6.99 per week for a group lesson lasting 20 or 30 minutes depending on the number of pupils in the group.

Wigan Music Service has its own **Instrument Hire Scheme**, and we offer hire at very good rates to children who learn through the service. We recommend you do not buy an instrument in the early stages of learning.

Hire fees for brass instruments are currently £40.00 per term or £80.00 for the year, guitars and stringed instruments are £20 per term, or £42 per year.

The Brass family includes trumpet, cornet, trombone, tenor horn, euphonium, baritone, French horn and tuba.

WHAT NOW?

.. Complete and return the attached slip **to school** within 7 days.

Wigan Music Service will set up teaching with your child's school as quickly as possible. You will be informed by the school as to when the first lesson will be.

Brass - during the first lesson, the teacher will decide exactly which instrument from the brass family (trumpet, cornet, horn, trombone, etc) is best suited to your child.

Strings – during the first lesson, your teacher will decide exactly what size violin/ viola/ cello is suitable for your child to learn to play.

Guitar - during the first lesson, your teacher will advise as to exactly which size and configuration of guitar will be suitable for your child.

Your child will then know the necessary details regarding the instrument they are going to learn, and they will bring a letter home containing this information.

It is then your responsibility to contact the music service on 01942 776169 and arrange for the hire and collection of the instrument. Staff will help with directions to our address when you call (Please find address at the bottom of this letter.)

.. The school will take responsibility for the collection of lesson fees.

You can find out more about Wigan Music Service by visiting www.wigan.gov.uk/musicservice

I really hope that your child will be able to enjoy their first steps in music making.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Thomas

Alex Thomas

Assistant Head of Music Service

Request for Instrumental Lessons

Spring term 2026

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE WITHIN 7 DAYS

Child's Name _____

Class _____

I have discussed learning an instrument with my son/daughter and I give permission for him/her to learn an instrument in school from September.

Please tick the instrument you wish your child to learn:

Brass

Guitar

Violin/ Viola

Cello

I understand that lesson fees will be around £6.99 per week and that school will collect these fees.

Once the lessons are arranged between school and the music service, school will contact me with the day the lessons will take place and with fee collection details.

I understand that I will have to hire an instrument and arrange to collect the instrument myself from the Music Service office in Hindley **after the first lesson** has taken place and my child has been advised by the teacher of the details of the instrument they recommend.

(Hire fees for brass instruments are currently £40.00 per term or £80.00 for the year, guitars and stringed instruments are £20 per term, or £42 per year).

Signed _____ Date _____

Print: _____