



The Royal School
Wolverhampton

WMS Music Lessons Welcome Pack 2026-27

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Your Guide to The Wolverhampton Music Service In-School Instrumental Music Lessons

For all up-to-date information and resources please check the WMS website, and **remember to register** that your child is receiving Music Service lessons in school:

Register your child	https://wolverhamptonmusicservice.org.uk/
What's On	https://wolverhamptonmusicservice.org.uk/whats-on/
News (Auditions, courses, performances, Newsletters)	https://wolverhamptonmusicservice.org.uk/news/
Ensembles	https://wolverhamptonmusicservice.org.uk/parents-pupils/ensembles/

Our instrumental music lessons are provided by teachers from **Wolverhampton Music Service** and take place during the school day. We ask parents of students taking music lessons to read and complete an annual **Music Tuition Contract Form**. Lessons cost £312 per academic year which we divide into a manageable payment schedule, payable via the School Gateway app at regular intervals throughout the year (**£52 in advance of each half term**).

For more information on Wolverhampton Music Service please browse the Music Service website. As well as finding a host of useful information and downloads, they are constantly adding news articles to keep you up to date.

Visit wolverhamptonmusicservice.org.uk or tel: **01902 558105** (8:30 am - 4:00 pm)

Term Dates	Autumn 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027
Inset Days	Tues 1st/Wed 2nd September	Monday 4th January	
Term begins	Thurs 3rd September	Tuesday 5th January	Monday 12 th April
Inset Day		Friday 22 nd January	
Bank Holiday			Monday 3 rd May
Half term Holiday	Monday 26th October to Friday 30 th October	Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June
Inset Days	Monday 2 nd November & Friday 20 th November		
End of Term	Friday 11th December	Thursday 25 th March	Wednesday 14 th July
Additional Senior (except Y11/13) Closures: Friday 23rd October & Tuesday 3rd November			

WMS Music Lesson Calendar 2026-2027

Autumn 2026

Music lessons commence Monday 7th September

(13 weeks)

Spring 2026

Music lessons commence Tuesday 5th January

(10 weeks)

*****No WMS teachers in school Thursday 4th February

*****No WMS teachers in school Monday 8th to Friday 12th

February

Summer 2026

(10 weeks)

*****No WMS teachers in school Friday 30th April

*****No WMS teachers in school Monday 24th to Friday 28th May

WMS Music Lesson Payment Schedule 2026-2027

- Payment will be £52 per term/£312 per year (per instrument)
- This covers both instrumental/vocal lessons and instrument rental (if required)
- Payments will be split into the following payment schedule **to be paid in advance of each half term**
- All payments are to be made via the School Gateway
- **Autumn (1) £52, 1st July 2026** (required to secure lessons for September)
- **Autumn (2) £52, 30th September 2026**
- **Spring (1) £52, 30th November 2026**
- **Spring (2) £52, 31st January 2027**
- **Summer (1) £52, 31st March 2027**
- **Summer (2) £52, 31st May 2027**

Please be aware that any students showing payment arrears on 1st July 2026 will not be entered into music lessons for September 2026.

We aim to ensure that every student taking lessons with Wolverhampton Music Service receives **at least 30 lessons** over the school year. Our Music Service Teachers attend school for **33 weeks** each year, allowing flexibility for any missed lessons due to teacher absence, timetable clashes, or school trips. Please note that **refunds for missed lessons are only offered in exceptional circumstances.**

Cancellation of lessons during this contract period will only be allowed at Christmas or Easter and will require a full half term's notice by email to kcooper@theroyal.school. Should your son/daughter stop attending lessons at any other time or without notice you will still be charged the full term's payment for these lessons as this incurs a cost for the school.









Welcome to Music at The Royal

Music is an integral part of life at **The Royal School**, and we encourage all our students to **explore, develop, and enjoy** their musical journey. Whether through lessons, performances, or extracurricular activities, we embrace a **diverse range of musical styles, cultures, and historical periods**—engaging students in listening, performing, and composing.

Beyond musical skills, learning music fosters **communication, teamwork, leadership, and confidence**, all of which are essential life skills.

Instrumental Lessons

Each week, students from Year 2 to Year 13 have the opportunity to receive lessons in:







-  **Piano/Keyboard**
-  **Guitar/Bass Guitar**
-  **Drums**
-  **Dhol – from Year 4 onwards**
-  **Vocals/Singing**
-  **Woodwind** – Recorder, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone
-  **Strings** – Violin, Viola, Cello
-  **Brass** – Trumpet, Cornet, Baritone, French Horn, Trombone

For younger students interested in **Woodwind, Strings, or Brass**, we recommend starting with smaller instruments before progressing to larger ones. Our Music Teachers will advise on this and keep parents informed.

Additionally, **Year 3 students** participate in **Whole Class Instrumental Teaching (WCIT)** throughout the year, culminating in an exciting **performance showcase** for parents at the end of the Summer Term.

Performance Opportunities

We offer a variety of opportunities for students to showcase their talents, including:

-  **School Concerts**
-  **Primary and Senior Prize Days**
-  **School Productions**
-  **Founders' Day**
-  **Advent Service**
-  **PTA Events**

...and many more!

We encourage all students taking music lessons to **actively participate in clubs, performances, and events** whenever possible.

Commitment to Learning

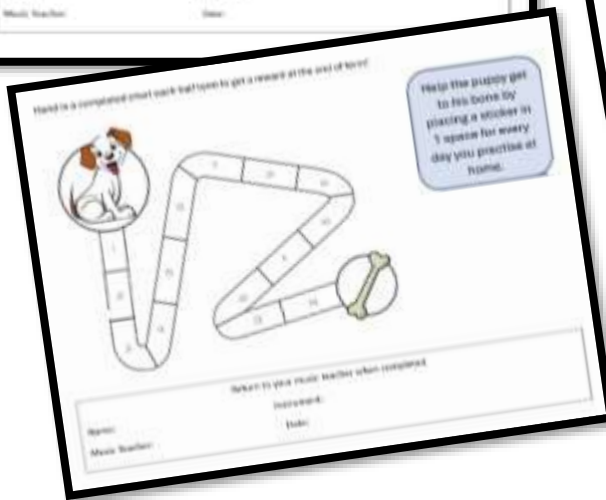
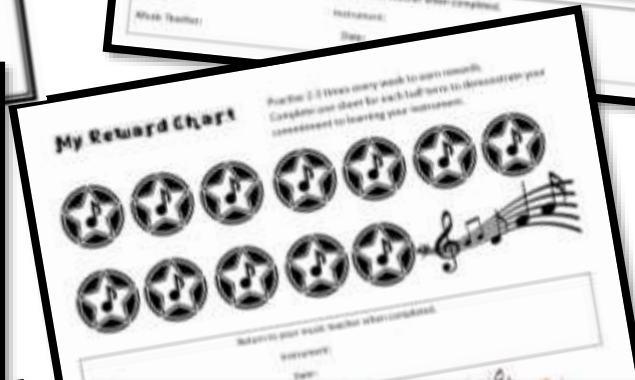
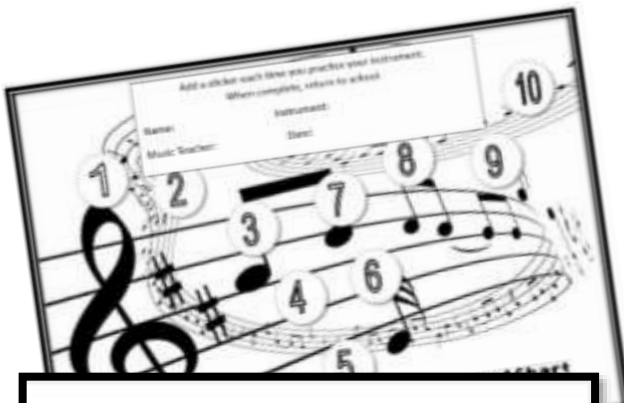
Music lessons with **Wolverhampton Music Service** run for the **entire academic year**, and we expect students to **commit to regular practice** and engage fully in their lessons. Parents play a key role in this journey by **supporting practice at home** and ensuring instruments, practice diaries, and music sheets are **well cared for and brought to lessons**.

Instruments are provided free of charge by WMS but must be **returned in good condition**.

To keep students motivated, we will provide **Reward Charts**, and at the end of each term, **certificates will be awarded** to recognise commitment and progress.

We look forward to a fantastic year of music-making at The Royal!

A selection of some of our reward charts:



Certificates are awarded at the end of each half term.

We have introduced our **Music Department Newsletter**, issued to keep students and parents up-to-date with our achievements, trips, events and opportunities. We also invite our music students to contribute to the newsletter with reviews of music events and trips, instrument profiles, and to showcase their performances outside of school.



🎵 Practice Makes Perfect! 🎵

To make great progress on a musical instrument and feel confident when performing, regular practice together with consistent attendance at music lessons is essential. Your child's music teacher will set weekly practice targets, so please ensure they bring their instrument, music and Practice Diary to every lesson.

If your child is unable to attend their scheduled lesson, please notify us as soon as possible:

Mrs. Cooper (based in Primary School) – kcooper@theroyal.school or Mrs. Simmonds (in Senior School) – lsimmonds@theroyal.school usually available in the Music Department during morning registration.

Supporting Practice at Home

To help students stay motivated, we provide reward charts (tailored to different key stages) to set visible goals and encourage a sense of achievement.

- ✓ Practice sheets should be signed by a parent/carer and the music teacher.
- ✓ Students with good practice habits will receive achievement certificates at the end of each half term.
- ✓ We recommended setting a practice schedule: three sessions per week.

If your child is finding practice or lessons difficult, please get in touch - we're here to help!



Parents' Guide to Motivating Practice

You may be wondering how to motivate your child to practice learning their instrument when the initial enthusiasm may have faded. Regular practice is a path towards self-discipline that goes way beyond music – it is a skill that has hugely positive ramifications for personal fulfilment and lifetime success.

Every session (whether 5 minutes or an hour) should have a clear goal, whether it's improving a specific technique, learning a new piece, or refining a section of music.

Create the right practice environment - a quiet space with no distractions.

Position music at the right height and stand with good posture (if appropriate for the instrument).

Short, frequent sessions (little and often) are more effective than long, infrequent ones.

Use the Music Service Practice Diary

Your child will receive a Music Diary to track their warm-ups, lesson notes, and progress.

This is also a great way for parents to stay involved and communicate with music teachers.

Make Practice Fun!

Turn practice into a game with challenges and activities.

Start with physical warm-ups (stretching, wrist/finger exercises, vocal warm-ups).

Use practice apps and online resources - check out the **Wolverhampton Music Service YouTube channel** for helpful videos.

Celebrate Every Accomplishment

Recognise progress with verbal praise, sticker charts, and certificates.

Consider exams or graded assessments to mark achievements.

Help Them Understand the Value of Music

It may take some time for a child to fully grasp the importance of music in the world, but you can open that door for them. Being able to appreciate music can help a child to grow their own personal connection to music and their instrument. Play music at home and encourage them to discover new genres. Show them how music connects people and cultures around the world. Take them to concerts and explore different music styles.



Let Them Play Music They Love

While traditional pieces are important, students stay more engaged when they can play songs they genuinely enjoy. Consider finding sheet music for their favourite songs online.

Keep Practice a Positive Experience

✗ Avoid making practice feel like a chore.

✓ Try rewarding practice with a fun activity afterward.

🎵 Encourage older students to take ownership of their practice routine.

Encourage and Plan Performances

Having a goal - like an upcoming performance - can boost motivation!

Start with small performances at home for family and friends.

The Music Service run a Sound Series Concert (each term at Centre Stage, Graisleigh) offering a great opportunity for invited students to perform - ask your child's music teacher for details.



Join a Music Ensemble

Making music with others is fun, rewarding, and helps students stay engaged.

Wolverhampton Music Service offers free ensemble groups for young musicians in Wolverhampton and all groups are fully subsidised through the Arts Council Music Grant – so they are free to attend.

🔗 Visit www.wolverhamptonmusicservice.org.uk for full details on available WMS groups – see the Parents and Pupils tab.

With regular practice, support, and encouragement, your child will flourish in their musical journey!

STAY SOCIAL GET INVOLVED

There are plenty of ways you can keep up to date with all the goings on in the

Wolverhampton Music Service:

- Twitter @wtonmusic
- Instagram
- Facebook
- YouTube

by searching for: **Wolverhampton Music Service**

Sign up to our Mailing List by emailing us directly at:

music.school@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Get Playing!



