

Will there be an opportunity to hear my child perform?

Yes. We intend that the children will perform for parents at least twice during the year. School will invite you to attend these performances.

What happens at the end of the project?

The emphasis throughout the year will be on the enjoyment and transferable skills relating to learning an instrument. We do hope that a good proportion of pupils will wish to continue to play in subsequent years. Wigan Music Service has a team of over 60 instrumental specialists who are deployed into nearly every Wigan school to deliver small group lessons. Whilst there will be a small weekly fee payable for these lessons, **continuing pupils will be eligible to receive a free instrument for a year.** We will write to you with full details towards the end of the project.



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Who do I contact if I have any queries?

As this is a school based project, your first point of contact is your child's class teacher or the school's music coordinator.

These teachers are likely to be involved in the teaching of the project and will be able to deal with most queries.

You may also wish to contact the Music Service on **01942 255227**.

We can make this information available in other formats and languages on request. Contact us at:

Wigan Council Instrumental Teaching Service
Children and Young People's Services
The Performing Arts Centre
The Professional Development Centre
Park Road, Hindley, Wigan WN2 3RY
Tel: 01942 255227
email: musicservice@wigan.gov.uk

August 2008

www.wigan.gov.uk

Whole Class Instrumental Tuition in Wigan Schools

Information for parents



Children and Young People's Services

This year your child will have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument in school along with the other children in their class. Please find below information which we hope will help you to understand the organisation of this exciting music programme and some ways in which you can help your child to get the most out of the experience.

Who is funding this project and why?

In 2002, David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, made a pledge that every child, over time, would be given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. Since that time, schools and music services across the UK have been developing ways to teach instruments to whole classes and how best to utilise government funding, specifically allocated for this purpose. Every September twenty additional Wigan primary schools join the project and by 2011 we hope to have every primary school pupil in the borough receiving their weekly music lessons in this innovative way.

Does this weekly session replace the normal music lesson in the National Curriculum?

In some schools, yes. Apart from specifically learning to play an instrument your child will participate in general musicianship activities (singing work, clapping and rhythm work, etc.) during the programme. The skills learned in these sessions are directly transferable to the musical instruments.

Which Instrument?

In discussion with your school, a specific family of musical instruments for the project has been chosen. We are currently delivering whole class instrumental teaching on brass, woodwind, strings and percussion instruments. Your child's specific instrument will have been chosen during a taster session held before the summer holidays.

Do I need to pay?

No. Your child will receive free lessons and a free instrument on loan from the music service for the duration of the project .

Can my child bring the instrument home?

Yes, we insist that they do. Practice is an essential part of playing a musical instrument and we hope that your child will enjoy consolidating the work done at school in their own time at home. Pupils participating in the percussion project will not take instruments home.

Will I need to purchase any sheet music?

No. The music will be provided on duplicated sheets where necessary. It would however be helpful to purchase a music stand. These are available from all music shops including Howarth's Music on Library Street in Wigan and cost around £12.00.

What is the 'Loan Agreement Form'?

If you haven't already done so, you will need to complete an instrument loan agreement form

so that the school can have a signed record of your agreement to take care of a musical instrument. By signing the form you are agreeing to take all reasonable steps to ensure the instrument is looked after and kept in good playing condition and that you will return it to school at the end of the year. Your child will not be permitted to take their instrument home until the form has been returned to school. Not required for percussion.

What happens if the instrument gets damaged?

Minor repairs will be dealt with by the teachers during the teaching sessions. In the unlikely event that more serious repairs are needed, the instrument will be taken away by the teacher and returned to our centre in Hindley. Parents should not attempt to carry out repairs or make their own repair arrangements.

Can I help to look after the instrument?

Yes. Please refer to the guidance notes on care and maintenance which accompany this booklet. (Not applicable to percussion.)

How much practice should my child do per week?

To fulfil their potential and get maximum satisfaction from this opportunity, it is important that your child practises. A small amount of time allocated to practice every day is the most desirable approach. 10 minutes every day is far better than an hour the night before the lesson! We encourage parents to make practice part of the household daily routine and to be as encouraging as possible. Ask your child to play to you and take an interest in their progress. You may even wish to have a go yourself. Why not ask your child to teach you!

