

Wigan Council Music Service Musical Instrument Hire Scheme



About:

Wigan Council Music Service runs its own flexible instrument hire scheme which makes acquiring a child's first instrument as simple and affordable as possible. Our instruments are not all new, but they are in good order and you can be sure that they are the correct specification for your child's first stage of learning. The scheme is only available to those students learning through the music service.

Why hire?

There is a vast array of types and specifications for musical instruments. How will you know that the instrument you have purchased is the right size and spec for your child? Hiring an instrument from us will ensure that your child is learning on one which is right for them. Instruments aren't cheap! It's wise to hire to begin with until you know that your child is going to commit to the instrument. At this later point you might consider buying your own.

It's convenient – we will help with repairs and maintenance, and you can change instrument and size if necessary without any additional charge. Orchestral string instruments, for example, are available in a range of sizes for smaller players. As a child develops, they will need a larger instrument. When your child's teacher tells you that that the time has come to move up a size, just bring your instrument back and swap it for the size for no extra cost.

In the first weeks or months of learning to play an instrument from an instrument family, you may decide to swap (say from trumpet to trombone or clarinet to saxophone). Again, when you hire from us, you can do this at no additional cost.

There are some instruments we can't hire to you:

We can't hire our electronic instruments (such as electronic keyboards). This is because we can't take responsibility for the health and safety aspect of electronics. We also don't hire out pianos or drum kits. For these, you will have to make your own arrangements.

Buying an electronic keyboard

Electronic keyboards are widely available to purchase on the high street and online. You don't need to spend a fortune. All our teachers are concerned about is that the keyboard you purchase has 'full size keys'. Most do but check this out. Flashing lights and other hi-tech features are great fun, but they are irrelevant to the keyboard / piano lessons your child will have in school.

Drums and percussion

It's great if you can afford to buy your child a drum kit, but if you can't don't worry! At primary school, our teachers will work on fundamental technique and all you need to practice this stuff is a pair of drum sticks and a rubber practice pad. Again, these are widely available on the high street or online or to purchase from Wigan Music Service.

Our hire charges (From 1st April 2024)

Instrument Family	Instrument	Cost per term	Cost per year	Notes
Orchestral Strings	Violin	£20	£42	Available in $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ as advised by teacher in first lesson.
	Viola	£20	£42	
	Cello	£20	£42	
	Double Bass	£20	£42	
Brass	Trumpet	£40	£80	Your child's teacher will work with them in the first lesson to decide which instrument from the brass family is right for them. They will advise which you should hire in writing after this first lesson.
	Cornet	£40	£80	
	Trombone / Compact Trombone / Bass Trombone	£40	£80	
	Tenor Horn	£40	£80	
	French Horn / Mini French Horn	£40	£80	
	Baritone / Euphonium	£40	£80	
	Tuba	£40	£80	
Woodwind	Clarinet	£40	£80	Your child's teacher will work with them in the first lesson to decide which instrument from the brass family is right for them. They will advise which you should hire in writing after this first lesson.
	Flute	£40	£80	
	Saxophone	£40	£80	
	Oboe	£40	£80	
	Bassoon	£40	£80	
Guitar	$\frac{3}{4}$ size acoustic guitar	£20	£42	Teachers advise that a $\frac{3}{4}$ size acoustic guitar is

				the most ideal beginner instrument.
	Electric bass guitar	£20	£42	Supplied with a practice amplifier
Percussion	Practice pad and snare drum sticks	£15	Available for purchase only (not hire)	
	Xylophone	£40	£80	Not necessary for beginners. Xylophones are hired to developing players learning orchestral percussion.
	Snare Drum kit	£40	£80	A snare kit including the drum and a stand. Limited availability.

Why are some instruments for expensive to hire than others?

Some instruments cost us more to purchase in the first place and often, these same instruments have higher maintenance costs.

When should I arrange my instrument hire and where do I collect it from?

Guitars can be hired immediately, ready for your child's first lesson. If you have enrolled for percussion lessons, you can purchase a practice pad and sticks at any time.

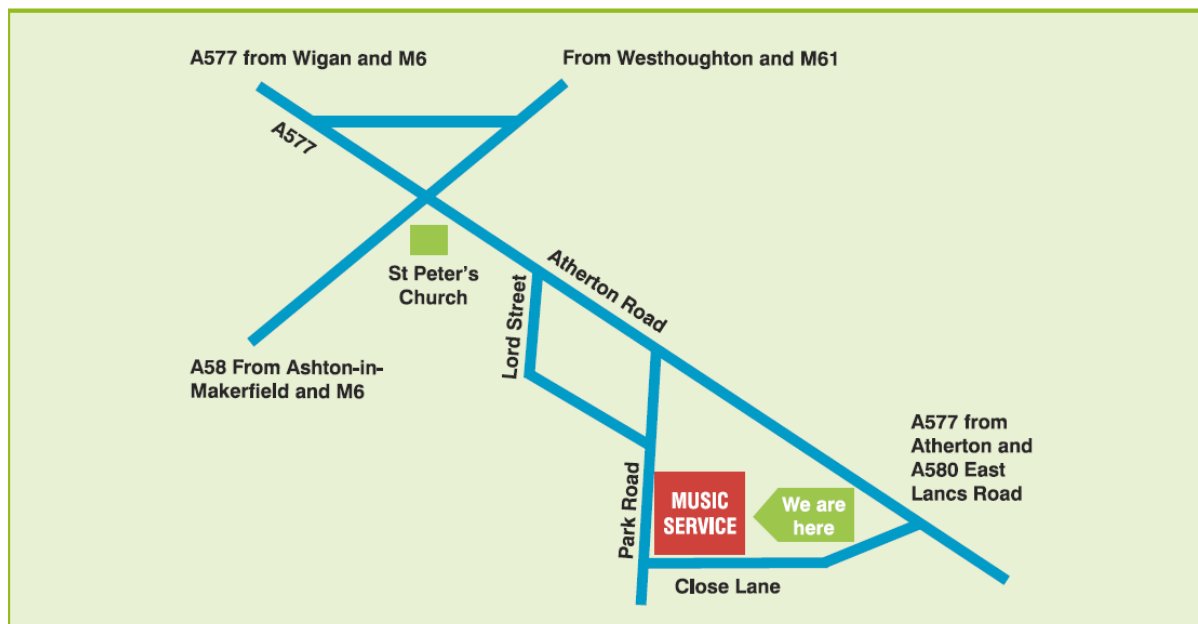
Brass, woodwind and string instruments should not be hired until after the first lesson. String pupils need to be measured for the correct size of instrument and for brass and woodwind, the first lesson offers the opportunity for pupils to try a range of instruments from within the chosen family. Lesson one is all about experimenting and working this stuff out.

At the end of lesson one, your child will be given an advice slip with the name/size of the specific instrument they are going to learn. Once you have this information, you should contact us on 01942 776169 to arrange your hire within the week so that your child has their very own instrument to learn on ready for lesson two.

N.B. Parents / carers must come to our centre in Hindley to collect instruments. We cannot deliver instruments directly to schools. Parents will be asked to sign a loan agreement form and make payment at the time of collection.

Our address is:

Wigan Music Service
Park Road
Hindley
Wigan
WN2 3RY



How can I pay?

We can accept payment in cash or cheque payable to 'Wigan Council' or by debit / credit card at our reception.

What happens when my hire period is up?

We will write to you directly to ask you to either renew your hire or return the instrument to us if your child no longer needs it. If you choose to re-hire, there is no need to re-visit our centre in Hindley. You can post a re-hire agreement back to us with a cheque payment or pay online.

Is there any help available if I choose to purchase my own instrument?

Yes. When the time comes to purchase your own musical instrument we can help with that too. Our 'Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme' enables pupils at local authority schools to purchase instruments free from VAT. In addition to discount prices, this can mean significant savings. This procedure has the full approval of HMRC. We have long experience of operating this scheme and we are confident in our ability to help you to choose the correct instrument for your child and procure it at the best possible price. Please ask for advice from your child's teacher as to the make and model of the most suitable instrument and then contact us on 01942 776169 for further information.