

AN INTRODUCTION TO

MUSIC FOR SCHOOLS

FOUNDATION



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Charity No. 1067859

The Music for Schools Foundation is an independent registered charity organising brass and woodwind tuition in around 300 primary schools nationwide.

### OUR TEACHING METHOD

Our lessons are taught in small groups, typically between 2 and 5 pupils. We believe that this has many benefits - it is fun, it develops listening skills, ensemble skills, with mutual support for the pupils, and a healthy dose of competition in there too. Group sizes may be smaller due to varying pupil and ability levels. Lesson times are adjusted to reflect the number of pupils in a group, with the longest lesson running for 30 minutes.

Our tutors are a multi-talented group from a variety of backgrounds including former teachers, professional musicians and the armed forces. What ties them together is a passion for music and a desire to share this with their pupils. Each of our tutors is able to teach all the instruments we offer, meaning there are less individuals coming into your school to teach separate instruments.



*"I am the music co-ordinator at a state primary school in Bath. We have worked with the Music for Schools Foundation for several years now and in that time, the number of pupils playing musical instruments in our school has increased beyond our expectation. They explode the myth of the stuffy old music teacher by providing wonderfully warm and talented tutors who really 'get' children. We really wouldn't be without them and would encourage anyone thinking of introducing their child to a new instrument to make use of their services. First class :)"*

### STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Our tutors use the Standard of Excellence tutor book, which utilises a band method to enable different instruments to learn together. Lessons feature a variety of music and incorporates elements of music theory and composition, which support the Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum.

One of the most popular features of the Standard of Excellence system is the accompanying backing tracks which can be used to make both lessons and practicing at home more fun.

Integrated within the Standard of Excellence is a reward scheme, with bronze, silver and gold certificates which can be presented to pupils in a school assembly or celebration event. We always reward good work with stickers and our tutors are happy to liaise with schools to work with any reward system you may have in place.

## BANDS

Although our scheme is already based around pupils learning in a group, we feel that it is important to give further opportunities to play in ensembles. This can range from simple duet and trio opportunities, to woodwind ensembles, brass quartets and school bands. In some of our larger schools we also team up with strings to form fantastic orchestras! All available to play at your Christmas and Summer Fetes!

## CONCERTS AND ASSEMBLIES

We always like to show off our wonderful pupils and their achievements. We can do this informally as part of your weekly assembly time, and have certainly featured in many big celebration assemblies. We also make sure that we work with Music Co-ordinators to arrange music concerts as frequently as schools want them.

## FUNDAYS

It is even nicer to be able to get lots and lots of pupils to play - being part of a wider musical community can be hugely rewarding and we like to start pupils off early!

*"Our son really enjoys playing his Cornet and we are very grateful to the tutor and all at MFSF for giving him the opportunity to start learning and for helping him to do so well."*

*"My daughter learnt the clarinet for 4 years with Music for Schools. She loved the group lessons, and moved to individual lessons when doing grades. It's a fantastic, fun way to start learning an instrument, and a lot cheaper than private lessons out of school time."*



## RECORDER CLUBS

We primarily focus on Key Stage 2 instrumental lessons, however in some areas we offer Year 2 Recorder Clubs! We even organise the recorders! If this is something that your school would be interested in, please just ask.

## EXAMS

The Standard of Excellence method has a built-in reward system already, but the opportunity to take external exams can be hugely beneficial to some pupils. Where appropriate, our tutors will support children to take Associated Board grades.

We are very proud of our results, which historically have been exemplary with pass rates in the region of 98%.

## OUR HEAD OFFICE TEAM

We know that schools are very busy and that is why our highly musical and friendly head office team handle all administrative aspects of the scheme, from scheduling new pupils to fee collection.

## OUR PARENTS

We understand that enrolling a child for music lessons can be a big undertaking for parents. We always make sure that right from the very beginning, everything is explained carefully and clearly. Our tuition uses a system that is easy to follow for both pupils and parents, plus we make sure that we are always available should parents have any queries about their child's lessons, progress or even the instrument.

We are proud to offer flexible enrolment options so that parents can get their children involved without the need for large upfront payments or commitments.

We also offer a reduction in the price of lessons for pupils from low income families (evidence required) and can work with schools wishing to make use of Pupil Premium funding for music tuition.

## GETTING STARTED

When starting the scheme in a school we like to give a musical presentation to the children, to introduce the different instruments, their sounds and history, and bring in various musical elements.

About a week later we host a parents evening when we introduce the scheme to parents and answer any questions.

If after the meeting there is interest we liaise with the school and arrange to start lessons.

We look forward to welcoming you and your pupils on to our scheme!

For further information about the scheme please contact:

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