



Getting the most out of your lessons with MusicRoom

Our tutors are engaged to provide the best possible lessons for your child.

The music we play is chosen to help your child develop and, while we encourage students to suggest pieces they would like to play, the tutor has the final say on the pieces and exercises appropriate to the skill level.

Here are some ways you can support your child's learning.

Getting organised

We recommend you purchase a document pocket that can take A4 music and your tutor book, and a small notebook for the teacher, parents and students to use during the term.

All MusicRoom students will be issued with a practice notebook each year. If it gets lost you will need to replace it.

Mark the house calendar with lesson days, performances and rehearsals. You can also download a 'lesson clock' for younger students to colour in and put their lesson day and time on it so they can see an easy reminder for at home.

Timetables are sent out at the beginning of each term, notwithstanding that school events will impact scheduling.

Instrument care

Help your child respect their instrument, and acknowledge your investment in their education by keeping it clean, safe and out of reach of siblings who might just find it all too interesting to resist.

A good habit to start from the beginning – and don't forget that music needs care too!

Home practice

If your child is having individual lessons with a tutor then they are expected to practice at home. If your child is in a group they will also be given practice to do at home. Everyone should be practicing. Our tutors will let your child know what is expected of them during their lessons.

We encourage daily practice, even with the very young. It is the frequency of practice where the learning happens. Aiming for two minutes every day is better than five minutes twice a week. Missing one or two days in seven is far less damaging to overall learning than missing one out of the agreed two. It's just like reading every day for them – something they will understand.

Every student is different. Here are some general guidelines we use at MusicRoom to develop good practice habits.

- Ages 5 – 7 should practice at least 5 to 10 minutes each time. This is often helped by a parent asking 'show me what you are doing'.
- Ages 8 – 10 should practice at least 10 to 15 minutes each time. They should be able to practice reasonably independently and will benefit if you can schedule regular timeslots in their week.
- Ages 11 and up should be able to manage their own practice schedules and the amount of time and frequency will be dictated by their proficiency on the instruments.

Encourage your child to put the effort in at home and it will show up very quickly in their lessons and performance opportunities.

Remember a good quality short practice is much better than hours of mindless repetition.

Preparing for your lessons

Tutors spend a considerable amount of time helping students prepare for their lessons on the day. You can maximise the learning time by encouraging your child to be prepared. This includes

- Having their instrument and music ready by the front door the night before so you don't forget anything – does it need tuning, do the valves need oiling?
- Arriving 10 minutes before your lesson time and get your instrument out and do your warmups. Most teaching spaces will have a spare room nearby for you.
- We recommend an A4 folder for keeping music in a safe place.

Cancelling lessons – our policy

We all have lives that move unexpectedly and MusicRoom tutors will always work with you as best they can. We try to keep up to date with school activities, however it is your role as the parent of the student to inform us.

It is very important that parents and tutors work with the students to keep good communication lines open. Things will happen that are totally unplanned, however for those that are known beforehand, we can reschedule if we are given notice.

Our tutors travel to bring the music to you, or they reorganize their work and other activities to fit your lesson in. Due to the number of occasions in the past when teachers have not been advised of absences in advance, we have had to change our policy on cancelled lessons. As from 1 February 2018, lessons not cancelled at least one day prior to the scheduled time will have to be paid for. If a child is off sick and you let us know, our tutors will provide one make up lesson a term for the missed lesson but only if your fees are paid in advance.

The sooner you let your child's tutor know of a clash the more chance you have of rescheduling.

Sometimes our tutors cannot make the normal lesson time too, and they will likewise give you as much notice of any changes.

Your tutor will give you their contact details and they will make sure they have the right contact details for you.

All absences should be notified directly to your student's tutor. This will make rescheduling a smoother process for all.

Keep these details in a handy place

Your tutor is

Your lesson day is*

Mobile

Your lesson time is*

Email

Your instrument is*

Preferred method of contact:

Tutor

Parent

*note that these may change due to school events and students' progress but we aim to keep regular lesson times and instruments steady for each term.