

## ***Instrumental Lessons Policy***

*November 2009 –*

St George's has a large number of peripatetic teachers who visit the school both during the school day, and after the end of normal lesson time. Lessons are available for strings, woodwind, brass and percussion, plus keyboard, piano, guitar and singing. Lessons are normally forty-five minutes long, and the school aims to offer thirty individual lessons per academic year, normally ten lessons per term. Violin pupils in the Infant School may be offered either group lessons or shorter 20 minute lessons in the early stages of learning.

Lessons are arranged once parents have requested them and agreement is reached with the Director of Music and the peripatetic teacher concerned. If lessons take place during the school day, the six-day cycle ensures that a different academic lesson is missed each week. If a lesson is missed due to illness or the pupil failing to attend, the lesson is charged. If the teacher misses a lesson, then every effort will be made to reschedule it at an alternative time. If a lesson is missed due to a school commitment such as exams, a trip or a sports fixture, and the teacher is notified in advance, it *may* be possible to reschedule the lesson, timetable permitting. Otherwise, an adjustment to the charges levied can be made at the end of the academic year.

New pupils normally begin at the start of a term. Lessons are currently charged at €395 for a block of 15 lessons, or €790 for 30 lessons during the year, payable in advance. If a pupil does not wish to continue lessons, a full half-term's notice to The Music School is normally required, and the peripatetic teacher concerned should also be informed.

If a pupil wishes to have a trial lesson, this is encouraged and can be arranged with the Director of Music. The school has a stock of instruments and it may be possible to loan an instrument once lessons begin. Parents are advised to check that their insurance cover is adequate for this, in the event of loss. Damage, other than normal wear and tear, and replacement strings, reeds, etc., will be charged for. As pupils progress, they are encouraged to buy their own instruments. Pupils learning the piano are expected to have access to a suitable instrument for practising at home.

If a pupil is to succeed in playing a musical instrument, it is vital that he/she is encouraged to practise regularly. Each pupil has a notebook, which parents are asked to check. Some peripatetic teachers like parents to sign the book weekly. In any event, parents are asked to help their child by supervising the daily practice routine.

It is also important that instruments and music are brought into school on the day of the music lesson. Secure storage facilities are available in The Music School. Music should be carried in a folder or music case.

As pupils progress, they are expected to take part in the school music ensembles which rehearse weekly at lunchtimes or after school.

Pupils have the opportunity of entering graded external music examinations. The Associated Board examinations are held, usually on school premises, three times per annum. The instrumental teacher will notify parents in advance if an examination entry is recommended, and the fee will be charged. Music is normally ordered through the school, and again is invoiced.

*This policy will be updated September 2010 by the Principal in conjunction with the Director of Music*