

**Free Loan of a Musical Instrument**

This year your child is learning to play an instrument with Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS) in school as part of the First Access programme – a chance for children to experience learning a musical instrument free of charge.

Each week, your child will receive tuition from a professional musician and will have access to an instrument free of charge whilst they take part in the project.

To make the most of this opportunity, the music teacher feels your child is now ready to take the instrument home between the school sessions to practice and demonstrate their new skills to their family. In order to ensure the instrument is kept safe so that other children can use it in the future we request that you please read and sign the loan agreement by completing this form.

Learning an instrument in this way will give your child the skills and confidence they need to go on and learn **any** musical instrument in the future. Check our website [www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk) for more information!

**What is expected of parents/carers?**

Musical instruments can be expensive and do need to be well looked after, however if you follow the tips below, things rarely go wrong.

Any accidental damage will be sorted by HMS and the only instance a charge would be applied is in the case of malicious damage or if the instrument is sold/donated. HMS teachers will have spare instruments and parts and can often fix minor issues at school.

You may feel apprehensive about bringing an instrument into your home, but HMS believes that the benefit of sharing musical progress with family and friends far outweighs any risk of the occasional mishap that might occur.

Below are some easy-to-follow tips on enabling your child to use the HMS instrument safely at home.

* Play the instrument for a few minutes every day – little and often is best!
* Make sure it is stored safely at home, away from radiators, direct sunlight, pets and siblings!
* Keep the instrument in the case provided when not being played.
* Transport the instrument safely between home and school on the correct day.
* If something does go wrong – never try and fix it yourself. Simply inform the school and bring the instrument to the next music lesson as usual.

**How can I help my child?**

You don’t need to be a musician or have any experience with music at all to support your child’s musical learning at home. You just need to be their biggest fan!

Simply listen to them play and allow them to demonstrate their new skills to you. Everyone starts somewhere, and the smiles, encouragement and applause you give, even after a few squeaky or scratchy notes, can make all the difference to the confidence and progress your child can make.

We are not expecting your child to become a professional musician – and learning a musical instrument doesn’t have to be all about exams and certificates – this could be the start of a fun musical journey with lifelong benefits!

**HMS First Access Instrument Loan Agreement**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| Instrument: | Flute/clarinet (please circle) | Value: | £150. |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| HMS Number: | (Instrument number in class) # | Class: |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Pupil Name: |  | School: |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Issue Date: | January 2024 | Return Date: | July 2024 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| If a repair or replacement instrument is required, please record the details below: | | | |
| Please do not attempt to repair or send the instrument off for repairs. | | | |

**Terms and Conditions**

* I agree to the loan of the instrument detailed above, in line with the First Access instrument loan policy, available here:

<https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/legal/first-access-instrument-loan-policy.aspx>

* I acknowledge receipt of the above instrument.
* I accept responsibility for the care and maintenance of the instrument, I will support my child to follow the care instructions given by HMS staff, and I will return it in good order.
* I accept that, in line with the HMS First Access instrument loan policy, where any damage, loss or theft is found to be malicious or if I sell or donate the instrument, I will be liable for the full replacement cost detailed in this agreement, payable to HMS.
* I understand that any repairs must be authorised by HMS – I agree to inform the School as soon as possible in the event of any damage, loss or theft of the instrument.
* I agree to return the instrument to the School when instructed at the end of the project.

Signature or Parent/Carer Date

Please complete and return to your child’s school.

**Hertfordshire Music Service**

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk