

**Solihull
MUSICSERVICE**  **Music Hub**



**Solihull Music Service
Instrumental music lessons**

**YOUTH
MUSIC**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

www.solihullmusicservice.com

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Welcome to Solihull Music Service

Solihull Music Hub and Service is one of 122 national music organisations funded by DfE through Arts Council England to support the National Plan for Music.. Working in partnership with schools and other music hub organisations we are able to deliver a wide range of musical activities both during and after the school day.

Musical activities delivered during the school day

Solihull Music Service is bought into schools and settings within Solihull to deliver the following musical activities:

- Instrumental and vocal lessons
- Music ensembles
- Curriculum delivery and support
- Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET)

The Music Service also offers a range of instrumental lessons and progressive ensembles for pupils after school at various centres across Solihull during term time.

After school instrumental music lessons (Monday-Friday 3.30pm-8.00pm)

For those who choose to attend instrumental lessons outside of the school day the service runs two music centres offering individual music lessons based at Arden Academy and Solihull Music Service.

Music service ensembles (Monday-Friday 4.30pm-8.00pm / Saturday 9am-12.15pm)

Solihull Music Service offers many exciting, varied and wide-ranging ensembles for pupils to join outside the school day from 4.30pm onwards and on Saturday mornings (9-12.15pm)

For many pupils this is the highlight of their music making and offers:

- An opportunity to make music with others to the highest standards, from beginner to advanced level.
- High-class direction and coaching from specialist instrumental and vocal staff.
- A range of concerts, events and courses, both within the Borough and beyond.



Full details on the ensemble activities and instrumental lessons offered can be found on the music service website:

www.solihullmusicservice.com

Instrumental Music Lessons

Instrumental lessons are delivered during the school day by Solihull Music Service. A total of 33 lessons will be delivered over the academic year with 5 make up weeks available for any lesson the music service has not been able to deliver.

Lessons will be timetabled weekly during normal school hours. Please be aware your child may miss a specific school lesson each week. This is a new routine which children have to get used to and will need to be reminded to bring their instrument and music on the day of the lesson. Whenever it is practical, lessons are delivered on a rota basis, to minimise disruption to the pupil's timetable.

Solihull Music Service offer lessons on the following instruments:

If your school is unable to offer any of following instruments listed below you are able to apply directly to the music service for lessons after the school day at one of our music centres.

Strings

Violin	Year 3 onwards
Viola	Year 3 onwards
Cello*	Year 3 onwards
Double Bass*	Year 3 onwards

Guitar

Acoustic Guitar	Year 3 onwards
Electric Guitar	Year 5 onwards
Bass Guitar	Year 5 onwards
Ukulele	Year 3 onwards

Brass

Cornet	Year 4 onwards
Trombone*	Year 4 onwards
Tenor horn*	Year 4 onwards
Euphonium*	Year 4 onwards
Tuba*	Year 4 onwards
French horn*	Year 4 onwards

Woodwind

Flute	Year 4 onwards
Clarinet	Year 4 onwards
Saxophone*	Year 4 onwards
Bassoon*	Year 4 onwards
Oboe*	Year 4 onwards
Recorder	Year 2 onwards

Keyboard

Piano **	Year 3 onwards
Keyboard **	Year 3 onwards

Percussion

Orchestral percussion**	Year 4 onwards
Drum kit**	Year 4 onwards

Vocal

Vocal lessons**	Year 4 onwards
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** (only available in some schools)

Instruments marked with a * may be available for hire through Solihull Music Service at a charge of £15.00 per term. If you wish to hire an instrument from the music service please email messages@solmus.solgrid.org.uk

Music lessons charges 2019-20

Group lesson £7.40

2 pupils in 20 minutes
3-4 pupils in 30 minutes

Individual 20 minute lesson £13.80

Individual 30 minute lesson £19.80

www.solihullmusicservice.com

Teaching Weeks 2019- 2020

Solihull Music Service aim to deliver a total of 33 instrumental lessons during term time within the following weeks:

Autumn term	1	9 th September	6	14 th October	10	18 th November
	2	16 th September	7	21 st October	11	25 th November
	3	23 rd September	8	4 th November	12	2 nd December
	4	30 th September	9	11 th November	13	9 th December
	5	7 th October				
Spring term	14	6 th January	18	3 rd February	22	9 th March
	15	13 th January	19	10 th February	23	16 th March
	16	20 th January	20	24 th February	24	23 rd March
	17	27 th January	21	2 nd March	25	30 th March
Summer term	26	20 th April	29	11 th May	32	8 th June
	27	27 th April	30	18 th May	33	15 th June
	28	4 th May (not Monday BH)	31	1 st June		

Music service lessons are offered during term time with the following make up weeks available for any lessons the Music Service has been unable to deliver.

16th December

22nd June

29th June

6th July

13th July



Terms and Conditions – Billing Direct Music lessons

- a) Instrumental lessons will be taught by staff employed by Solihull Music Service and delivered in term time with 33 lessons offered across the academic year of 38 weeks.
- b) The provision of these lessons is subject to demand and availability of Music Service staff and available accommodation at the school/centre.
- c) Invoices requesting payment will be sent a term in arrears and calculated on the number of lessons delivered each academic term. Parents can choose to pay either by direct debit or through e-payments on the council website. Charges for all music lessons are reviewed by the SMBC annually in April each year.
- d) Credits are not normally given for lessons missed by pupils. However, in the case of notification of long-term illness (accompanied by a doctor's note), or prior notice in writing of unavoidable or compulsory school events, consideration may be given. Please submit any requests you wish to be considered in advance by email to messages@solmus.solgrid.org.uk.
- e) Withdrawal Process - Please note that half-a-term's notice of withdrawal from lessons must be given in writing to Solihull Music Service via email to messages@solmus.solgrid.org.uk .If such notice is not received, half a term's fees will be charged in lieu.
- f) In a small number of cases a pupil may withdraw from a shared or group lesson which can result in the lesson type becoming unfeasible. In this case Solihull Music Service will contact parent/guardians to offer an alternative lesson type giving pupils half a term's notice of any change.
- g) Families receiving *Free School Meals* and *Looked After Children* may qualify for free lessons and free instrumental hire. For further information please email edfreesm@solihull.gov.uk
- h) If parents / caregivers are struggling to fund instrumental lessons for their child, they should approach the school who may be able to help in certain circumstances.
- i) All music must be paid for by the pupil.
- j) Hire of instruments - Parents wishing to hire an instrument for lessons at £15 per term payable in advance, may contact the Music Service directly. Please note that not all instruments are available and are issued on a first come first served basis and demand often exceeds supply.
- k) By signing up for SMS centre lessons – subject to receiving further information, I agree to my child taking part in concerts and events organised by Solihull Music Service.

Purchasing or Hiring a Musical Instrument

Playing a musical instrument is a life-long source of joy, achievement, and entertainment for yourself, and hopefully others. To invest in getting your child off to a good start, with a well-functioning instrument, will make the learning process both easier and more enjoyable!

There are a number of specialist music shops in and around Solihull that will give advice regarding the most appropriate instrument. Many shops will offer instalment plans and rent-to-buy schemes which may suit better than an outright purchase. It is also worth considering second-hand purchases whether from an advertisement, music shop, friend or the notice board at the Solihull Music Service. There are some excellent second-hand bargains, but always be aware that there can be hidden defects.

Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme

Instruments can sometimes be purchased without paying VAT through the *Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme*. For further details please visit:

www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/vat-government-and-public-bodies/vatgpb7825

Hire of a musical instrument through Solihull Music Service

Solihull Music Service have a limited number of the larger and more expensive instruments for hire at the cost £15 per term. Please note that not all instruments are available and are issued on a first come first served basis and demand often exceeds supply. If you wish to enquire about the hiring instruments from the Music Service please download the instrumental hire form which is available on the Music Service website.

Maintenance of your instrument

The instrument will at some point – again, just like a car – require service. If the instrument is well maintained and cleaned regularly at the end of playing sessions, it will stay in good shape for longer, but might nevertheless need maintenance at some point to ensure pupils are able to reach their full potential.

Essential Accessories to support progress

Your child will require a music stand for practice at home in order for them to develop good habits and posture whilst playing. Other accessories to consider will be the tutor book, spare strings, reeds or valve oil. For further information please refer to the next section.

Instrumental Specific Advice

Keyboard



Technology has advanced in such a way that even cheaper entry level models will be suitable for beginner keyboard lessons.

The essential criteria for the instrument will be:

- Five octave keyboard- 61 keys
- Full size keys (as opposed to mini!)
- Touch sensitive keys
- A good range of sounds and styles (rhythms)

More advanced models will have plenty of other features but these are usually only of use to the more experienced player. Keyboard stands are strongly advised in order to develop a good posture.

Woodwind



If your child plays the Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe or Bassoon, you will also need to buy reeds for your instrument. The reed is what makes the sound on the instrument, which makes it a vital piece of equipment.

Reeds are of specific size for each instrument, i.e. a Bb Clarinet reed will not fit an Alto Sax, and an Alto Sax reed will not fit a Tenor Sax. Reeds are made in different grades of thickness.

When buying reeds, it is always better - and cost effective - to buy a box of 5 or 10. **ALWAYS consult with the teacher** as to which reeds to buy, as the playing quality of the reed varies between different makes and grades, and sometimes even between individual reeds.

Your child should always have at least one spare reed in his/her case.

Other essential accessories - There is a wide range of accessories available for woodwind instruments. The most necessary are cleaners (appropriate to the instrument) for wiping out the instrument after playing and cork grease (for Clarinets, Saxes, Oboes, and Bassoons).

Guitar



Many of our young pupils start off playing acoustic classical guitar and will require a nylon strung acoustic model. Guitars come in different sizes - 1/2, 3/4 and full size, which can be matched to the height/size of individual pupils.

If your child wants to learn on the electric guitar or steel strung acoustic this is possible but it may be worth contacting your teacher first to discuss this, particularly if your child is in a group lesson. A case is essential; the lightly padded ones with the shoulder straps and side pocket for music are particularly good. A spare set of strings in the side pocket is also good idea.

String instruments



Violins, violas cello and double basses come in all different sizes to suit the child's height and stature. Your child's teacher will advise you as to what size to buy. It is usually best not to buy without consulting the teacher first as information on the internet cannot always be trusted.

You will be able to buy an instrument from a local shop or online, once you have been informed as to what size to buy.

Essential accessories include:

Block of Rosin (for bow hair on all instruments)
Spike holder (cello / double bass)
Large sponge/ Shoulder rest (Violin / Viola)

Tutor Book (please confirm with your child's teacher before purchasing)

Violin Time Joggers
Viola Time Joggers

Cello Time Jogger
Vamoosh Book 1

www.solihullmusicservice.com

Brass



There are many models available to choose when purchasing a brass instrument and in all cases the music service brass team will be happy to advise on the most suitable choice for your budget.

Locally the following companies are a good place to start browsing:

Normans Music
Presto Classical
John Packer

In addition to an instrument your child will require some of the following items:

Tutor Book (please confirm with your child's teacher before purchasing)

Accent on Achievement Book 1

The Jock McKenzie Tutor Book for Young Brass Players Book 1 (sold by Mostyn Music as well as other suppliers)

Additional equipment

Valve oil (for all brass instruments except trombone)

Ultra-Pure Professional and Fast are recommended products (except French horn)

Rotary valve oil is required for the French horn

Trombone slide lubricant: *Slide-o-Mix 'rapid comfort'* is recommended



www.solihullmusicservice.com

Useful Websites

The list below is a guide and there may be many other providers available who can offer similar choice and quality to the suppliers we have recommended.

www.johnpacker.co.uk	Brass and woodwind instrument suppliers
www.alangregory.co.uk	Tutor book and instruments
www.prestoclassical.co.uk	Tutor book and instruments
www.normans.co.uk	All Instruments
www.stringersmusic.com	String instruments
www.expressmusic.co.uk	Guitar specialists

Sheet music and tutor books:

www.juneemerson.co.uk
www.mostynmusic.com
www.alangregory.co.uk
www.prestoclassical.co.uk
www.forsyths.co.uk



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How Can I Support My Child?

Practice

Practice means that your child spends time playing their instrument for an agreed amount of time, and it needs to be a regular - daily – activity. (Compare it to tooth brushing – one hour of brushing on Sundays will not make up for not brushing at all throughout the week!) It is really important that you as a parent/guardian encourage and reinforce this routine from the outset and make it a part of the family's daily routine.

Set aside a place where your child can practice undisturbed. Whenever possible, sit and listen, enjoy, and take pride in your child's accomplishments! Encourage your child to practice slowly and to take difficult passages apart to try and find out what the difficulty is. Things don't get better by just playing the music over and over again with the same errors. Your child's teacher will say how much daily practice is appropriate for your child, but as a general rule, 5-10 minutes per day for beginners, 20 minutes for intermediate players, and 30 minutes or more for advanced students.

Graded Music Exams

Your child will also be able to, if they wish, take graded music examinations through the Music Service using the Trinity College Examination Board. Your child will be entered when the teacher judges that they are ready and well prepared for the examination.

Music

Most learning will take place in a group situation. It is therefore of great importance to the progress of the group that new music is bought promptly for your child when requested by the teacher.



Communication With Your Child's Instrumental Teacher

Solihull Music Service provides a number of opportunities for parents to meet with their child's instrumental teacher to ensure progress is being made and parents are fully informed about the best way to support their child's learning.

Practice books

Solihull Music Service provides a **free** practice book for all new pupils. The book helps pupils keep a record of the pieces they are working on and practise targets set for each lesson. There is also opportunity for parents to help pupils keep a log of their weekly practice and space for parents to add comments if appropriate. If parents wish to contact their child's instrumental teacher they can email the music service and request the message is forwarded to the appropriate teacher.

Parents evening

Solihull Music Service currently offer two parents evening meetings each academic year. A letter inviting parents to attend will be circulated via school parent mail. All enquiries regarding parents evening should be made by emailing parentsevening@solmus.solgrid.org.uk *

*please note this email account will only be active 6 weeks before each published parents evening session in the autumn and summer term, at all other times please use the messages@solmus.solgrid.org.uk account.

Parents evening	(all pupils)	October
Parents evening	(all pupils)	July

Reports

Parents are also given the opportunity to request a written report at the end of the academic year which provides an overview of the skills, knowledge and experience the pupil has gained. This report is in place of attending the summer parent's evening session.

What else can I do to support my child?

Encouragement and support are the most valuable things that you can give your child but don't be afraid to try the instrument for yourself. You never know, you may find it fun and slightly addictive. A great way to reinforce the skills that we learn in the lessons is to get your child to teach you to play. Beware though - they may be hard taskmasters!

Solihull Music Service Ensembles

The Solihull Music Service currently offers many exciting, varied and wide-ranging ensembles for pupils to join.

For many pupils this is the highlight of their music making and offers:

- An opportunity to make music with others to the highest standards, from beginner to advanced level.
- High-class direction and coaching from specialist instrumental and vocal staff.
- A range of concerts, events and courses, both within the Borough and beyond.
- Great music, great people, great fun!

If you would like to join one of the groups please apply online on the music service website:



www.solihullmusicservice.com

Ensembles for beginners



Solihull Music Service run a number of ensembles specifically for pupils who have just started to learn to play. We firmly believe that joining a group can have a significant impact on the progress made by pupils at all levels but especially for those who have just started on their journey.

The following first access groups can be joined without audition and are open to all players who have started instrumental lessons.

Wind Starters

Monday 4:30pm - 5:40pm

Wind Starters is open to all wind and brass players who have had just one term of tuition and have a range of five notes. Rehearsals focus on having a good time, learning to play together and develop skills like watching the conductor and play with dynamic contrast.

SMS Academy – Heart of England & Alderbrook

Tuesday 4-5.30pm

We run two community based ensembles for pupils of any instrument and ability run at Heart of England and Alderbrook. The group is aimed at primary age pupils who have a least a term of instrumental lessons and open to any instrument.

Superstrings

Wednesday 4:30- 5.40pm

Superstrings are especially for young players in their first few years of learning a string instrument. The focus is on enjoying playing music together and children will be able to reinforce basic string techniques in a positive and supportive atmosphere.

Junior Brass Band

Thursday 4:30- 5.40pm

Junior Brass Band is open to all players who have had just one term of tuition and have a range of five notes. We focus on enjoying playing music together whilst reinforcing basic brass playing techniques and essential ensemble skills in a positive and supportive atmosphere. The group rehearse and perform music from a wide variety of musical genres that includes classical, jazz and popular repertoire.

Saturday Music Centre



The aim of Saturday Music Centre is to complement and enhance the teaching of music, dance and drama, in Solihull by creating opportunities for instrumentalists and singers to take part in a variety of ensembles, according to their ability.

The Centre operates on each Saturday during term time from 8.50am until 12.15pm at the Solihull Music Service.

Classes at present on offer include:

Flute Choir

Dance

Electric guitar

SMC Jazz Bands

Rock & Pop bands

Steel Pans

Ukulele Group

SMC Flutes

SMC Choir

SMC Reeds

Beginner guitar

Intermediate guitar

SMC Orchestra



www.solihullmusicservice.com

About Solihull Music Hub and Service

Solihull Music Service is the lead partner for the Music Education Hub in Solihull and one of 122 hubs created across England in 2012 as part of the government's **National Plan for Music Education**.

The Importance of Music: National Plan for Music Education (2012-2020) published by the government in 2012 set out the benchmarks for high quality music provision for all children and young people aged 5-18years old. The plan clearly sets outcomes for music education with equality of opportunity for all pupils, regardless of race; gender; where they live; their levels of musical talent; parental income; whether they have special educational needs or disabilities; and whether they are looked after children. *Solihull Music Hub and Service* are funded to work in partnership with organisations and schools to improve the quality of music education.

As part of the Arts Council funding conditions the Hub is required to monitor and evaluate the quality and breadth of provision, collate data around music provision as well as deliver the following core and extension roles.

Core roles

- a) Ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-class ensemble teaching programmes for ideally a year (but for a minimum of a term) of weekly tuition on the same instrument.
- b) Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
- c) Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.
- d) Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

Extension roles

- a) Offer CPD to school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
- b) Provide an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those on low incomes.
- c) Provide access to large scale and / or high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and / or venues. This may include undertaking work to publicise the opportunities available to schools, parents/carers and students.

Contact us

Email: messages@solmus.solgrid.org.uk

Phone: 0121 743 2483

Website: www.solihullmusicservice.com

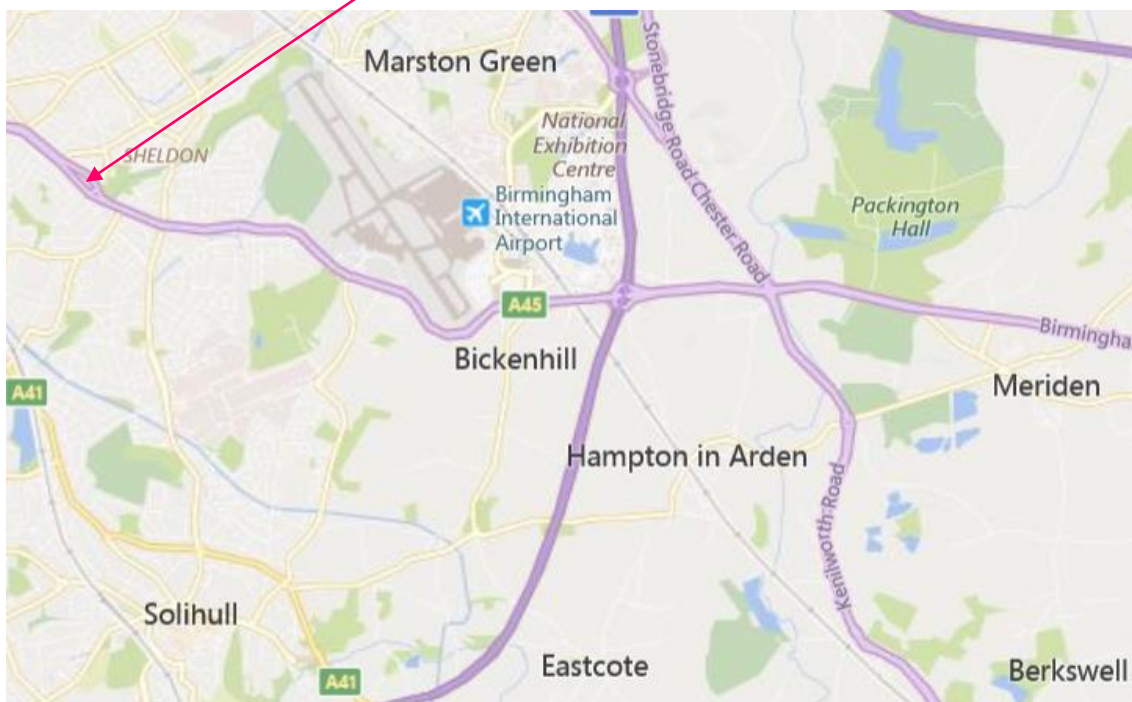
Our music service offices are located at:

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