

*Thanks for your interest in the Fernhill
School Music Department
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Fernhill School

Music Department

Meet the Team



Mark Donnelly
Head Teacher & Acting PT of Music

Ross Mallon - Teacher of Music



Ruth Ross - Principal Teacher of
Music
(Maternity Leave)



Instrumental Tuition

- **Will my child be eligible for groups and bands?**

We expect all pupils to fully and actively take part in co-curricular groups. This not only fosters great camaraderie but encourages the pupils to work as part of a team. They would also be key contributors to promoting the ethos of the school through their music. Ensembles and groups are often led by senior pupils who encourage participation from all levels of development. There are no auditions.

NB: Playing an instrument requires serious commitment and dedicated practice. You must be certain that your child has the time and commitment to practice and that school work will not suffer.

Learning to play an instrument is one of the most rewarding experiences in life and will most certainly help to create a well-rounded, confident and socially active young person as well as instilling an excellent work ethic.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you require further information or advice.

Co-Curricular

We have a vibrant Co-Curricular programme at Fernhill School which includes the following music groups:

- Training Choir (P1-P4)
- Junior Choir (P5-Transitus)
- Senior Ensemble
- S1-S6 Choir



Instrumental Tuition

- **Do I have to buy an instrument?**

We recommend hiring the instrument in the first instance. If your child shows real potential and is an enthusiastic and diligent worker and is achieving tangible results, then you perhaps should think about buying. At the moment, the school has a small selection of instruments which may be hired. A list of music specialists where instruments can be hired is available on request. Please contact the music department for details. Fernhill School rental prices vary depending on the instrument from £30 per term to £50 per term. At the end of the year, you have the option to buy.

- **Is my child guaranteed a place on their chosen instrument?**

Instruments currently on offer:

Piano, voice, violin, 'cello, clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, drum kit, percussion, classical guitar, and electric guitar.

In P3 pupils can learn the piano, violin, voice or drum kit and in P2 piano and violin lessons are available.

If a place is not immediately available you will be advised of this and your child's name will be placed on the waiting list.

NB: Priority is given to SQA certificate candidates who perhaps need tuition in order to pass an exam.

- **Will I be informed of my child's progress?**

Your child will need a diary to record each lesson. This will be the main means of communication between teacher and home.

You will be asked to sign your child's practice diary every week. This allows the tutor to know if you are happy with how your child is progressing. This allows the tutor to teach your child in a way that is appropriate to them. In addition, you will receive a more formal report at the end of term three. Please feel free to make an appointment direct with your child's tutor should you wish to attend a lesson.

Reaching Musical Heights

We are proud to offer our young people a nurturing and stimulating learning environment and cohesive learning journey with Music being taught from Nursery level by Music Specialist. Within each level of the school the pupils have access to Music and are actively encouraged to develop their skills and talents. We have a range of instrumental tuition available for all pupils primary 4 up to access and enjoy.

Skills Development:- Through Music your child will develop:

Musical Skills

- Rhythmic and musical accuracy
- Technical advancement on chosen instrument
- Attention to detail
- Creativity and imagination
- Knowledge of Social and Cultural factors influencing music
- Expressing thoughts and feelings and emotions through music.

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

- Independent learning
- Collaborative Work
- Time Management
- Critical and Analytical thinking skills
- Applying Learning
- Embedding of numeracy and literacy skills
- Social and Emotional Skills
- Confidence and Self-Belief

Curriculum Overview

The purpose of the music curriculum, at Fernhill School, is to develop candidates' interest and enthusiasm for music whilst developing a range of valuable life skills.

Our young people are encouraged to become musically literate citizens, able to perform on a variety of instruments throughout their time in Fernhill School. They are provided with many opportunities to develop critical and analytical thinking skills whilst also providing the opportunity for presentation skills, through performing at school and charitable events throughout the year.

Our focus is on developing our young people to become responsible and confident learners and as such, the Faculty embraces the use of pupil centred learning and teaching approaches ensuring that all pupils are able to develop at their own speed and time.

Music at the moment offers candidates the option to reach Advanced Higher on Two Instruments or One instrument and Voice.

We will shortly be adding some Music Technology options to the curriculum.



Instrumental Tuition

It is my pleasure as Head Teacher and as a Music Teacher to be surrounded all day, every day with enthusiastic, aspiring young musicians. Of course, excellence doesn't happen without the support and expert guidance of some of the best instrumental teachers in the business.

We are proud that Fernhill School, whilst small, can still attract instrumental instructors of the highest calibre. All are seasoned professional musicians in their own right, all are enthusiastic and skilled teachers and all have personality and

- **How do the lessons work?**

Lessons take place once per week. All pupils receiving lessons in school will generally have their lessons during the school day. The lessons operate on a rotational basis ensuring pupils only miss half of a class no more than once every four weeks or so. Operating this system ensures the pupils are more than able to cope with their schoolwork without any added pressure. The tutor will post their timetable on the notice board at least a week in advance, ensuring pupils are well aware which subjects they will be missing. Pupils in the Primary School will be collected for their lesson by the tutor and returned back to class afterwards.

- **Can my child have a lessons out of class time?**

This may be possible. Lessons prior to school, after school and at lunchtime are possible at the discretion of the individual tutor. Priority for these lessons is given to those pupils who play more than one instrument to ensure they do not miss more than one class per week or those pupils whose parents and teachers feel that missing any class would have a detrimental effect on their learning. Demand for these spaces is high and so may not always be possible.

- **How much do the lessons cost?**

The cost of lessons for 2022/23 £17.00 per half hour lesson. Please note that fees are subject to review and potential increase in line with Musician Union guidelines at any time during the session.