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Overview of the service



Kingston Music Service (KMS) is the lead organisation for the Kingston Music Education Hub which is funded by Arts Council England.

We provide instrumental and vocal music lessons to young people in and around Kingston and aim to nurture and support young musicians to achieve their full potential.

The services we provide enrich the lives of young people in the borough by offering opportunities to become actively involved in a wide variety of music activities including playing in ensembles, participating in workshops and performing regularly.

KMS is a non-profit making organisation, receiving funding from The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Music tuition

We work with highly qualified tutors who undergo regular training and support to ensure lessons are of the highest standard.

We can deliver lessons at schools (during the school day) or at one of our music centres in the evenings and at weekends.

School tuition

We provide music lessons at Kingston schools during the school day and they are timetabled according to schools' preferences and requirements. Lesson times will therefore vary from school to school. Ten lessons are delivered per term.



We give every pupil aged 5-18 the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

Music centres

We run a number of music centres across Kingston. The majority of centre lessons are on an individual basis and are ideal if your child:

- is a pupil at a school outside of the borough
- if they prefer not to have music lessons during school hours, or
- if they attend a school where in-school tuition is not provided

We run our music ensembles and music theory lessons at these music centres.

Types of lesson

We offer the following options for lessons:

30 min group lesson
(up to five pupils per group)

30 min paired lesson

20 min individual

30 min individual

40 min individual

25 min Hollyfield School and Kingston Academy lessons only

Prices vary depending on the type and length of lesson – visit our website for current prices.

Financial support is available for pupils on free schools meals (or who meet the criteria).

How to apply – Please visit our website for a link to the application form and further information about learning an instrument with the service.



Choosing an instrument / Instrumental hire

Helping your child decide which instrument to learn can be a daunting task.

When choosing an instrument you should take into account your child's size (finger size, arm length and arm strength) and, for wind and brass, whether they have their front adult teeth (top and bottom)

The following is a guide for which instrument is appropriate for differing ages:



Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 6/7
Violin	Acoustic guitar	Flute	Double bass
Viola	Electric guitar	Clarinet	Oboe
Cello	Piano	Saxophone	Bassoon
Recorder	Electronic keyboard	Cornet	French horn
	Voice	Trumpet	Tuba
		Trombone	
		Euphonium	
		Drums	

We have a range of instruments you can hire.

A term's fees are required as deposit and will be refunded on return of the instrument. You would need to collect the instrument from our main office so that we can ensure your child has the correct size of instrument.

You are liable to insure and maintain the instrument you have hired and must return the instrument in the same condition that you received it.

In the event that we are unable to provide an instrument for hire, there are a number of local music shops that offer a hire scheme.

Not sure which instrument to choose?

We regularly organise 'Come and Play' days which are free to all students and provide an opportunity to come and try out different instruments and meet some of our music tutors – visit the website for upcoming events.

Buying an instrument

If your child is having lessons with us and you are considering buying an instrument, then you can purchase an instrument through us free of VAT as part of the assisted instrument purchase scheme.

For more information, or for an application form, visit our website.



Music groups *and* **ensembles**

There are a wide range of orchestras, bands, choirs and chamber groups that you can join. Playing music with others is a rewarding aspect of learning an instrument and can help develop sight reading and performance skills.

Our groups rehearse for 10 weeks per school term at our music centres and cater for pupils of all ages and

standards. As a member you will have the opportunity to participate in regular performances and senior students are given the opportunity to go on tour.

All groups are open to new members regardless of whether or not they are having lessons through us.



Free trial sessions for all ensembles

Committing to an ensemble can be a big decision, so we offer a free trial session for those thinking of joining us. To arrange a free trial session for any of the ensembles please contact us by email.

For more information about our groups please visit our website.



Music scholarships

We provide support to talented young musicians through our scholarship programme. The programme includes weekly lessons, ensemble membership, music theory lessons, performance opportunities and workshops. Each scholar will also be assigned a mentor who will help to coach them and realise their potential.

The scheme is available for pupils aged 10 to 14 and of Grade 4 standard and above. Students will be asked to complete an application form and attend an audition. Please visit our website for further information.



Music exams

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Taking a music exam can help to motivate pupils by setting a series of realistic goals to work towards. They are a good way of measuring a pupil's progress and also provide an internationally recognised standard in terms of achievement.

Kingston Music Service regularly hosts music examinations by The Associated Board of the Royal

Schools of Music (ABRSM), Trinity College London and Rock School.

Entry for an exam is suggested by the tutor but it is not a statutory requirement and pupils don't have to take an exam.

We support students to achieve the highest possible results in exams and can provide a piano accompanist and additional aural classes.



Music festivals *and* events

We organise a range of performance opportunities for young people. These include our massed singing festivals, annual gala concert, wider opportunities festival and much more.

Thousands of young people participate in these events each year which helps to inspire them to take part in a range of musical activities.

We work with a number of professional organisations to ensure young people in Kingston can experience high quality

performances and participate in a range of specialist workshops. Previous work has included projects with the Philharmonia Orchestra and the National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

We regularly run specialist workshops for our students to nurture their talent and provide inspiration for their musical education. These events give our students increased confidence, help develop technical skills, provide a performance platform and promote creativity.



Curriculum support *and* training

We work closely with schools to ensure students are able to access teaching of the highest quality both in and out of the classroom.

We offer a comprehensive package of training and support for both music tutors and classroom teachers to help achieve high standards. This includes conferences, regular networking events and training days.



Music technology and ***recording***

We are passionate about promoting the latest music technology and run a range of workshops and courses to promote its use.

Kingston Music Service manages the Hook Studio located in the Hook Centre (Chessington). The studio is open to the public for hire for rehearsals and recordings. In addition we run a range of educational workshops and courses to help support students and adults.



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