



June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

There are many instrumental opportunities available to your daughter in the Music Department of Ashfield Girls' High School. Demand for these services is high and if you would like your daughter to take part in music lessons you should complete the online form as soon as possible. In the case of oversubscription, all expressions of interest are noted and kept on record in the event of a space becoming available at a later date.

There are three tutors who come to Ashfield each week from the City of Belfast School of Music. One is for woodwind (flute, clarinet, oboe etc.), another for brass (trumpet, cornet, trombone etc.) and another for the strings (violin, viola, cello). The cost to you will be only £75 for the whole school year, as the school subsidises much of the cost of tuition. We will be asking you to make the £75 payment using the ParentPay system which can be done directly online or through pay-point locations in local shops. If your daughter is allocated a space you will receive further notification on how to complete this procedure.

To avoid the purchase of expensive instruments, you can hire from the School of Music for a fee of approximately £55 for the whole year (£35 for violin). This arrangement is independent of the school and you will receive instruction from the School of Music tutors when lessons have been confirmed. You do NOT need to pay this fee if your daughter receives free school meals.

In response to pupil demand we also employ tutors for piano, guitar and voice on a private basis, who are happy to continue this year and take on some new pupils. These lessons need to be paid for in full at the start of each term. The following tables show costs involved, depending on your preferred lesson format. Please note that we have a close connection with a local drum tutor, which involves pupils travelling to the tutor's studio for lessons during after school hours. This will reduce the time they are missing lessons and allow for a more interactive lesson experience due to the equipment she can provide there. The studio is located in East Belfast and you would be responsible for transporting your daughter to and from lessons. Lesson times and fees would be arranged privately.

**PIANO & VOICE & GUITAR:**

Duration of lesson	Lessons per term	Total lesson time	Cost per hour (2 lessons)	Total cost <b>per term</b>
30 minutes: <i>individual lesson</i>	10	5 hours	£26.00	£130.00
30 minutes: <i>in a group of 2/3 pupils</i>	10	5 hours	£13.00 (group of 2/3)	£65.00

Please remember that on the basis of responses to this letter, I will be requesting the services of privately employed teachers. Therefore, the numbers at this stage are crucial and it is preferable to make the count as accurate as possible. Learning a musical instrument demands a great degree of commitment but is a fabulous opportunity, which has been shown to improve development across many areas of the curriculum.

I look forward to hearing from you,

*S Lyons*

Mrs S Lyons  
Head of Music

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