

# PARENT GUIDE



**Dear Parent / Guardian**

This booklet contains all of the information you need to know about your child learning a musical instrument with Jersey Music Service. Our team of specialist teachers provide high quality tuition alongside exciting musical ensembles, which are available at all levels for your child to take part in.

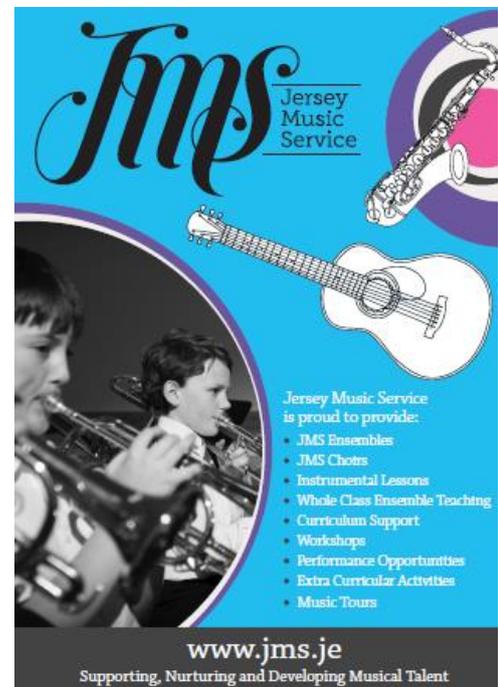
I am sure you are aware that learning to sing or to play a musical instrument can be an extremely rewarding experience and we hope that this introductory booklet will help to guide you in supporting your child throughout their musical learning.

For more information on tuition and ensembles please visit our website [www.jms.je](http://www.jms.je). If you would like any further information, please contact us at Jersey Music Service.

**Victoria Stock**  
**Vice Principal**

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The graphic features the 'JMS' logo in a large, stylized script font on a blue background. To the right of the logo, the text 'Jersey Music Service' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. Below the logo, there are illustrations of a saxophone and an acoustic guitar. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular inset photograph showing two young boys playing trumpets. To the right of the photograph, a list of services is provided, and at the bottom, the website address and a tagline are displayed.

**JMS** Jersey Music Service

Jersey Music Service is proud to provide:

- JMS Ensembles
- JMS Chords
- Instrumental Lessons
- Whole Class Ensemble Teaching
- Curriculum Support
- Workshops
- Performance Opportunities
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Music Tours

[www.jms.je](http://www.jms.je)  
Supporting, Nurturing and Developing Musical Talent

## The benefits of music

Music education, including learning to sing and to play a musical instrument, provides enormous benefits for young people in terms of their intellectual, social and emotional development, motor skills, language, and overall literacy. All children can enjoy and respond to music and everyone can become involved in music making to some degree.

## What are the social benefits?

### **Music for pre-school children can help their transition into primary school**

Introducing music to children at an early age can improve their ability to learn and promote sharing, creativity and concentration. These are all invaluable skills when they enter a primary school where they begin to form new friendships and develop social skills.

### **Learning to sing or to play a musical instrument impacts greatly on personal and social development**

Learning to sing or to play a musical instrument can be extremely motivating and provides a feeling of accomplishment when goals are achieved. It improves coordination, motor skills and teaches discipline through regular practice. Music has been shown to increase children's confidence and self-esteem as a result of the encouragement and support from their teacher and by performing in front of peers or an audience. For children who have difficulty communicating verbally, music provides a way for them to express themselves in a non-verbal way. Music is a medium that is both accessible and inclusive.

### **Playing in a group or ensemble teaches discipline, teamwork, cooperation, self-confidence, responsibility and social skills**

Singing in a choir or playing in an ensemble is an essential part of a child's musical learning. In a group they learn to cooperate, listen and respond to each other musically and take responsibility for learning their own part. It is a fun, sociable and supportive environment that not only encourages independent learning but provides a place where they can meet new friends and feel like part of a team. Socially, children learn important life skills such as the ability to relate to others and in working as part of a team they appreciate the process and end result that comes from working together to stage a performance.

## What are the academic benefits?

### Music can help to improve a child's reading ability

Learning to read music can improve students' ability to remember words and so improve their vocabulary and enhance their language development. Music involves constant reading and comprehension. When you see notes on a page, you have to recognise what the note name is and translate it to a pitch of note, finger or slide position. At the same time, you need to be able to decipher rhythmic patterns and if playing a brass or woodwind instrument use your tongue to produce the correct pattern.

### Music can help to improve a child's numeracy skills

Reading music requires the counting of notes and decoding of rhythms which can enhance mathematical skills. The learning benefits derive from the similarity of rhythms and patterns and the ability to interpret notes and symbols. Even at an early stage, playing musical games or rhythm games can be a positive learning experience for children.

### 'Playing an instrument' can be used to achieve a Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)

'Playing an instrument' is one of the most popular activities used by students to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Award. A DofE Award is an excellent way to demonstrate the skills developed through extra-curricular activities, particularly when applying to universities.

### It can improve chances of accessing higher education

According to a poll of 63 university admissions teams, about 59% of staff say evidence of extra-curricular activities has become more pivotal in their decisions. (The Times Educational Supplement January 2015)

### You can gain additional UCAS points for entry to higher education

Music exams taken through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), Trinity College of Music and Rockschoool from grades 6-8 can attract 5-75 UCAS Tariff points. Trinity College London also award 35 UCAS Tariff points for Gold Arts Awards. Many higher education course providers use a UCAS Tariff points total in their entry requirements achieved by converting qualifications such as A levels (and many others) into points to allow them to compare applicants. For more information, please visit [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and [www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk)

## The role of the student

Learning to sing or to play a musical instrument can be an extremely rewarding experience that requires commitment and consistent practice. The student should be prepared to:

- Practice at least five days a week as recommended by their teacher.
- Attend lessons with the appropriate equipment and music.
- Participate in school and ensemble activities appropriate for their level where available.
- Maintain their instrument as instructed by their teacher if appropriate.



## The role of the parent / guardian

The role of a parent / guardian of a child learning a musical instrument is extremely important in helping them reach their potential. This can be achieved by:

- Encouraging them to practise at least five days a week and monitoring their attendance at lessons, supporting any feedback from the teacher.
- Allowing them the appropriate space to practise away from distractions such as pets, televisions etc. The ability to concentrate and listen is very important.
- Providing the necessary resources such as music, strings, rosin, reeds, valve oil etc. where appropriate. It is important to provide a music stand or a similar arrangement which allows the child to sit / stand properly. Bad postural habits can affect the child's technique or, if learning a woodwind or brass instrument, their breathing technique.
- Ensuring that you have collected their instrument (if appropriate) before the lessons commence and being aware that it is the child's responsibility to maintain their instrument.
- Having an active involvement in their development and sharing their enthusiasm.



## Lessons

Our team of specialist teachers deliver lessons in small groups, individual lessons are provided on consultation.

String	Woodwind	Brass (Y3+)	Other
Violin (Y1+)	Flute (Y3+)	Trumpet / Cornet	Percussion (Incl. Drum Kit) (Y1+)
Viola (Y1+)	Oboe (Y3+)	French Horn / Tenor Horn	
Cello (Y1+)	Clarinet (Y3+)	Baritone	Keyboard (Y1+)
Double Bass (Y3+)	Bassoon (Y3+)	Euphonium / Tuba	Guitar (Y2+)
	Saxophone (Y3+)	Trombone	Ukulele (Y1+)
	Recorder (R+)		Singing (Voice) (R+)

The delivery of 30 lessons per year is guaranteed, the amount of lessons per term varies. A pro rata number of lessons will be arranged should tuition commence part way through the academic year. Should the minimum of 30 lessons not be delivered due to teacher absence, a pro rata refund or credit at the end of the academic year will be made.

## Applying for lessons

Lessons can be applied for via our online registration system on our website.

Should you need any assistance in applying for lessons, please contact:

**Karen Strudwick**

**IT Systems Administrator**

**T: 01534 832277 E: [k.strudwick@music.sch.je](mailto:k.strudwick@music.sch.je)**

## Fees

Fees are published annually and are available to view online at [www.jms.je](http://www.jms.je)

## Payments

You will receive an invoice prior to the beginning of the autumn, spring and summer terms. The payment of lessons and instrument hire can be paid to the States of Jersey Treasury by cheque, card payment by phone or online, or by direct debit. You will receive details of these payment methods along with each invoice.

## Remissions

### Income Support

Where a family is in receipt of income support there is no charge to access Jersey Music Service's provision, please contact JMS for a registration form or download a form at [www.jms.je](http://www.jms.je), which will then be verified with the Social Security Department. This provision is limited to lessons and associated instrument hire on one instrument.

Jersey Music Service will verify termly whether the parent/guardian is in receipt of income support with the Social Security Department.

### Sibling Discount

Fee reductions are available for families with more than one child receiving tuition from Jersey Music Service. These reductions are displayed on our fees document (available to view on our website) and are automatically applied.

### Bursaries

A limited fund is available to provide support to families who would not otherwise be able to access provision.

If you have any queries regarding payment or remissions, please contact:

**Lynn Murphy**

**Finance & Examinations Officer**

**T: 01534 832271 E: [l.murphy@music.sch.je](mailto:l.murphy@music.sch.je)**

## Cancellation of Lessons

As per our Cancellation Policy, should you wish to withdraw your child from lessons, written notice is required at least six weeks before the end of the term you wish tuition to cease. Notification must be received in writing to: Jersey Music Service, Old Mont Cantel House, St Helier, Jersey, JE2 3ZQ or by email to: [jms@music.sch.je](mailto:jms@music.sch.je)



## Contacting your teacher

Parent-teacher meetings are held once a year and a progress report is provided in the summer term, a student diary should be used to encourage communication between the student and teacher.

## Quality assurance

Our teachers are all quality assured by Jersey Music Service. Should you have any queries regarding a teacher please contact:

**Victoria Stock**

**Vice Principal**

**T: 01534 832230 E: [v.stock@music.sch.je](mailto:v.stock@music.sch.je)**

## Additional teachers

Students receiving lessons through Jersey Music Service are advised not to receive additional tuition from another teacher on the same instrument. There are no benefits to having an additional teacher and it is important that you are aware of the issues that can arise if you choose to do this. Each teacher has an individual approach to teaching and therefore learning with two specialists can be very confusing for the child and may hinder progress.

## Care of instruments

Musical instruments are fragile and expensive, it is the child's responsibility to maintain their instrument. We would recommend that you:

- Ensure that the instrument is treated with care at all times as directed by the teacher and, if on loan, is returned in good condition when requested.
- Allow the instrument to only be used by the student to whom it belongs.
- Ensure that space is made available for the safe keeping of the instrument, when it is not being played it should be kept in the case.

## Hire

Instrument hire is available through the JMS Hire Service, parents are required to collect and return the instrument from/to the JMS office.

## Buying an instrument

If you are considering buying your child a musical instrument, we strongly advise that you speak to your child's teacher who will advise you which instrument is best for your child. Our teachers are specialists in their field and have a vast knowledge on the appropriate make and price of instruments suitable for the level of your child.

The JMS Instrument Hire Service is able to offer an **Assisted Purchase Scheme**. Through this scheme the service purchases the instrument of your choice, you then repay the service interest free over an agreed period of time. The instrument remains the property of Jersey Music Service until all payments have been made and cannot be taken off island without the express permission of Jersey Music Service. Should you leave the island to live elsewhere all outstanding costs must be completed. This scheme is available to all students in receipt of a lesson through Jersey Music Service and in full time education in Jersey.

If you have any queries regarding instrument hire or buying an instrument, please contact:

**Natasha Ronayne**

**Resources & Library Officer**

**T: 01534 832230 E: [n.ronayne@music.sch.je](mailto:n.ronayne@music.sch.je)**

## ABRSM, Rockschool & Trinity College examinations

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and Trinity College London offer music examinations. These examinations provide a progressive system of assessments ranging generally from Grade 1 to 8 and are recognised as international benchmarks of achievement valued by teachers and music institutions all over the world.

To read more about ABRSM, ABRSM Music Medals, Rockschool and Trinity College London examinations please visit the links below:

### **Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music**

[www.abrsm.org](http://www.abrsm.org)

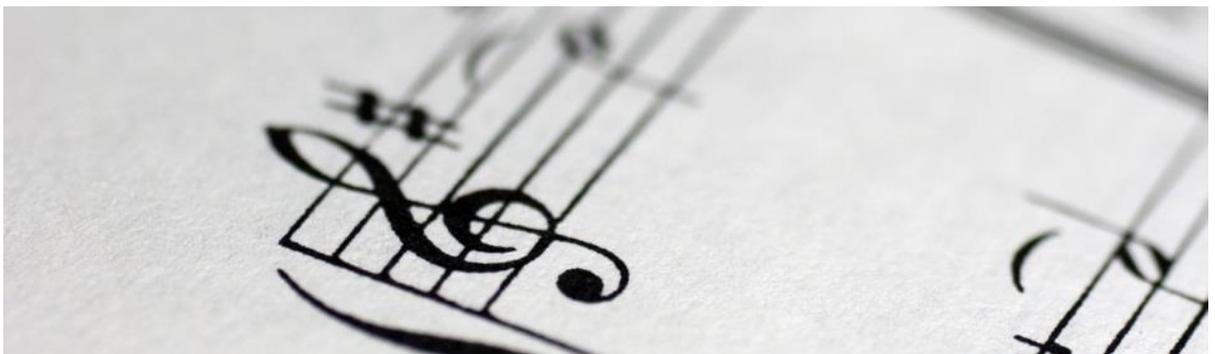
### **Trinity College London**

[www.trinitycollege.com](http://www.trinitycollege.com)

### **Rockschool**

[www.trinityrock.com](http://www.trinityrock.com)

Students may be invited to enter for an examination by their teacher when they have reached the appropriate level of skill and technique on their instrument.



## Opportunities

Playing in ensembles, bands and orchestras is an integral part of a student's musical development, as they are a fun and social way to greatly develop their playing. Not only does it enhance young people's musical and social skills but additionally teaches them transferable skills such as teamwork, discipline and achievement.

## JMS Ensembles

Jersey Music Service offer a variety of ensembles to JMS and private students including orchestras, wind bands and choirs. Rehearsals take place in the JMS Rehearsal Rooms at Fort Regent.

■ **Training Wind Band (Grades 1-3)** provides an enjoyable first step to band musicianship and the opportunity to make new friends from schools across Jersey. In a supportive and encouraging environment, students play a variety of pieces from marches to film music to pop songs. Students spend an hour that is challenging and fun and have the opportunity to win prizes through musical quizzes and games.

Rehearses: Monday 4.30pm – 5.30pm

■ **Training String Orchestra (Grades 1-3)** is a friendly, fun and exciting ensemble where you play and learn many different styles of music such as; classical, folk, traditional, jazz, blues, rock and contemporary. It is aimed for all violin, viola, cello and bass players who have reached grade 1 standard. In Training String Orchestra you learn many techniques to assist your string playing such as different bowings, sight reading and aural skills. There are also opportunities to improve the skill of playing from memory through musical games and improvisation. String players remain in the Training String Orchestra until they are grade 3 level when they are promoted to the Intermediate String Orchestra.

Rehearses: Wednesday 4.30pm – 5.30pm

■ **Intermediate Wind Band (Grade 3-5)** meets weekly for focused and enjoyable rehearsals for woodwind, brass and percussion players. It provides wonderful performance opportunities covering extensive repertoire including recent pop and rock tracks and music from the movies. In addition, the wind band often experiment in rehearsals with body and junk percussion to develop their rhythmic skills.

Rehearses: Monday 4.30pm – 5.30pm

■ **Intermediate String Orchestra (Grade 3-5)** aims to extend musical skills, knowledge and understanding through focused and enjoyable rehearsals. Repertoire consists of a variety of music including standard light classics and music from film, television and music theatre. All repertoire is selected with the aim of developing technique, general musicianship, and ensemble skills, as well as introducing players to the work of varied composers.

Rehearses: Wednesday 4.30pm – 5.30pm

■ **Jersey Youth Wind Band (Grade 5+)** play a wide variety of music, from film and pop music to original wind band compositions. The band performs regularly throughout the year in a series of concerts in Jersey and also travel abroad to perform, most recently to Germany and to Switzerland.

Rehearses: Tuesday 4.15pm – 5.15pm

■ **Jersey Youth Strings (Grade 5+)**

Jersey Youth Strings meet each week to learn a selection of string based repertoire as well as sectional work to join up with the Jersey Youth Orchestra. The focus is on tuning, advanced technique and orchestral etiquette. Opportunities are provided to try ensemble and orchestral leading and a variety of formal and informal performances mean there is always something exciting to work towards. Rehearses: Tuesday 4.30pm – 5.15pm

■ **Jersey Youth Orchestra (Grade 5+)** includes string, brass, wind and percussion players. All musicians are required to have grade 5 and above and entry is by audition. The orchestra endeavour to cover a wide range of musical styles from classical to show tunes and film music. Their current programme includes Schubert's unfinished symphony and an arrangement of ABBA's Mamma Mia! Learning experiences include rehearsal etiquette and performance practice. Students can even try their hand at conducting and some may like to audition to play a solo movement in one of the several performance opportunities throughout the year. Jersey Youth Orchestra regularly tours abroad with past tours including France, England, Germany and Switzerland.

Rehearses: Tuesday 5.30pm – 6.30pm

■ **Guitar Ensemble (Grade 1-3)** is a unique opportunity for young guitar players, who have been learning for at least a year, to begin playing with a large group of guitarists to develop and enhance their ensemble skills. The sessions focus on utilising TAB and rhythm reading skills, alongside their single note and basic chord skills to create a truly unique sound!

Rehearsals: Friday 4.30pm – 5.30pm

All JMS Ensembles and Choirs are free to attend with rehearsals taking place during term time in the JMS Rehearsal Rooms at Fort Regent.

## JMS Choirs

The Singcredibles and A Choired Taste are friendly, welcoming groups of singers who enjoy the opportunity to learn a wide range of songs from many different musical styles, whilst making new friends from schools all over Jersey. Both choirs develop the children's vocal technique, and the ability to read music and sing in close harmony, achieving a higher level than can be reached in most schools.

■ **The Singcredibles** is aimed at students in Year 3+ who wish to develop their vocal skills. Students spend a challenging hour (with a short social snack break mid-session) in an enjoyable, supportive environment where they learn a variety of songs aimed at developing vocal, aural, and memory skills. They can move up to A Choired Taste as their voices mature. They enjoy every opportunity to perform in different locations throughout the year.

Rehearsals: Thursday 4.30pm – 5.30pm

■ **A Choired Taste** is a friendly ensemble for students from Year 7+, which aims to extend the musical abilities of students through an extensive repertoire of different musical genres in focused, challenging and fun filled rehearsals. Students enjoy many opportunities to perform in various locations throughout the year. Students in Year 7+, who cannot stay until 5.45 pm, are still welcome to join or sing with The Singcredibles.

Rehearsals: Thursday 4.30pm – 5.30pm

All JMS Ensembles and Choirs are free to attend with rehearsals taking place during term time in the JMS Rehearsal Rooms at Fort Regent.

## Enrolment

If your child is receiving lessons from Jersey Music Service, they will be provided with an invitation from their teacher inviting them to attend an ensemble. You will be asked to contact us to enrol and we will inform you of the date for your child to start attending the ensemble.

If your child does not receive lessons from Jersey Music Service, they are still welcome to attend JMS Ensembles. Your child's private teacher will provide your child with an invitation. You will be asked to contact us to enrol and we will send you a registration form, once we have received your registration form we will inform you of the date for your child to start attending the ensemble.

**Jersey Music Service Ensembles**







Congratulations!

You have reached the appropriate standard to join a Jersey Music Service Ensemble

Training Wind Band	Monday 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Training String Orchestra	Wednesday 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Intermediate Wind Band	Monday 4.15pm - 5.30pm
Intermediate String Orchestra	Wednesday 4.15pm - 5.30pm
Jersey Youth Wind Band	Tuesday 4.15pm - 5.15pm
Jersey Youth Orchestra	Tuesday 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Guitar Ensemble	Friday 4.30pm - 5.30pm

*Jersey Music Service Ensembles are a fun and social way to enhance your musical skills. Joining a weekly group also greatly develops teamwork, cooperation, self-confidence and social skills.*  
Please contact Jersey Music Service on 822299 or [jmsmusic.edu.je](http://jmsmusic.edu.je) to enrol or for further information.

  
[www.jms.je](http://www.jms.je)



## What to bring to a JMS ensemble rehearsal

Your child will need to bring the following with them to rehearsals:

- Instrument
- Music Stand
- Pencil and rubber
- Bottle of Water



Jersey Music Service  
Old Mont Cantel House  
La Pouquelaye  
St Helier  
JE2 3ZQ  
T: 01534 832230  
E: [jms@music.sch.je](mailto:jms@music.sch.je)  
W: [www.jms.je](http://www.jms.je)