



## Instrument Care Guide

### Clarinet

Musical instruments are made to give years of service as long as they are looked after properly. This guide will explain how to care for your instrument.

- Never store anything on top of your instrument in its case as this can cause damage to the instrument. It is best to keep your music in a separate folder.
- Don't place your instrument unattended where it may fall or on the floor where it may get knocked or stood on.
- Never leave your instrument next to a radiator, in direct sunlight or in a very cold room. Woodwind instruments don't like extreme temperatures!
- Don't play after eating or drinking soft drinks as this will help cause the build-up of bacteria on the inside of the instrument.

**If anything goes wrong then please do not attempt to repair it yourself.  
Contact the Jersey Music Service on 832230 or email [jms@music.sch.je](mailto:jms@music.sch.je)**

### Maintaining Your Clarinet

**It is very important to clean your clarinet each time you finish playing to avoid causing damage to the pads. This is an essential part of taking correct care of the instrument.**

#### Every time you finish playing:

- Remove the reed from the mouthpiece and place it in a reed holder.
- Use your pull through to remove moisture from the inside of the clarinet's joints and barrel by dropping the weighted end of the string through the instrument and pulling the cleaner through.

#### Regularly:

- Clean your mouthpiece with warm water, ensuring not to soak the cork.
- Clean your pull-through in the washing machine.



- Clean the outside of your clarinet with a polishing cloth, being very careful not to apply pressure to the keys.
- Apply cork grease.

### **Assembling Your Clarinet**

**Please wait for your teacher to show you how to correctly assemble your clarinet before trying on your own.**

1. Check the corked joints of the instrument, if they're dry, apply a small amount of cork grease on each.
2. With the upper joint in your left hand, use your left hand fingers to press down the tone hole rings. This is very important as it avoids bending of the keys.
3. Grasp the lower joint near the cork without putting any pressure on any keys. Line up the tone holes on the two joints and gently twist them together, taking care that the bridge key doesn't catch and bend.
4. Gently twist the bell and barrel into place without putting pressure on any keys.
5. Grasp the clarinet at the top so that you're gripping the barrel and the upper joint at the same time and gently twist the mouthpiece into place.
6. Align the tip of the reed with the tip of the mouthpiece and tighten the ligature screws to hold the reed firmly in place.