



Instrumental and Vocal Lessons in School

A guide to the opportunities available for your child

Who are Berkshire Maestros?

Berkshire Maestros is the lead organisation of Berkshire Music Hub, offering the highest quality musical education delivering instrumental and singing lessons in schools across the county.

We also offer lessons outside school hours in our seven music centres across the county in Reading, Newbury, Bracknell, Caversham, Wokingham and Windsor.

Do you offer instrument and singing lessons at my child's new school?

Yes! We offer lessons that take place during the school day, at varying times. Pupils will leave classes for lessons but this is common practice in schools, and lesson times usually vary so the same subject should not be missed every week.

What instruments can I play?

There are a wide range of instruments available - and if there's one that you're interested in that isn't listed, please get in touch and we'll see if we can help. Current instruments offered are:

- Keyboard
- Piano
- Guitar - all styles
- Bass Guitar
- Ukulele
- Drum Kit
- Orchestral Percussion
- Voice - all styles
- Cornet
- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Tenor Horn
- Baritone Horn
- Euphonium
- Trombone
- Tuba
- Viola
- Violin
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Bassoon
- Clarinet
- Flute
- Oboe
- Recorder
- Saxophone

How much does it cost?

Lessons with Berkshire Maestros start from less than £10 for a small group lesson. Our current price list is [here](#) - fees are reviewed during each summer term for the following academic year. In return you get high-quality professional tuition from specialist qualified, DBS checked teachers. Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium funding may be entitled to significant discounts - please contact us to find out more.

For more information please contact **0118 901 2370** or admin@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

To register your interest in lessons or ensembles, either at your new school or in one of our music centres, please visit www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/register



Will I have to buy an instrument?

Not necessarily - you can usually hire one from Berkshire Maestros for a small termly fee (subject to availability). You may be able to apply for an interest free loan from Take It Away if you wish to purchase your own instrument.

How will my music lessons fit in with school and homework?

All schools recognise the importance of music as a key part of the curriculum, and are willing to allow time away from lessons for this. Music practice alongside school homework is vital, however quality is more important than quantity, and your teacher can help with tips for making the most of the time you have available to practise.

Where do lessons take place?

Most schools have dedicated spaces in their music departments for instrument and voice lessons - you can talk to your school about this.

I would prefer lessons out of school hours - is this possible?

We also offer instrumental and voice lessons at our music centres, which are generally held after school and at weekends, subject to availability. Please contact your local music centre or speak to your teacher to find out more.

When will lessons start?

Lessons will start in the Autumn term - not necessarily the first week as it may take time to establish the best schedule with regards to your child's timetable. We will contact you in due course to confirm details of lessons during the first term.

My child already has Berkshire Maestros lessons at primary school. Can these continue at secondary school?

Yes, in most cases this is possible. We will contact you to confirm your wishes, and will do our best to make the transition as seamless as possible. It may not be possible to offer the same teacher, however our teachers work closely together and any new teacher would be briefed on your child's progress.

Do you offer lessons for children with additional needs?

Yes, our teachers are trained to support students with additional needs, Many pupils with special educational needs or disabilities may benefit from more individual attention, rather than a group lesson. We may be able to offer individual lessons at group lesson rates for these children, in consultation with the school and according to their EHCP needs.

Who can I contact if I have another question?

Our customer service team are based at our Music Centre in Reading and would be happy to answer any additional queries you may have, They can be contacted on 0118 901 2370 or by email at admin@berkshiremaestros.org.uk. You can also find out more information on our website at www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk.

For more information please contact **0118 901 2370** or admin@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

To register your interest in lessons or ensembles, either at your new school or in one of our music centres, please visit www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/register

BERKSHIRE

Maestros



Joining an ensemble

Berkshire Maestros offers more than just instrument and singing lessons - we run ensembles across Berkshire for all abilities from beginner to advanced, across a wide range of instruments, We also run choirs for all ages from primary school to adult.

There are many benefits to joining a choir or ensemble, including:

- Developing communication skills
- Team working
- Building confidence
- Improving memory
- Increasing resilience
- Enhancing social skills

Playing or singing in a choir or ensemble can provide a safe social space for teenagers, and allows them to grow as individuals whilst giving them opportunities to develop their talent and technique on their chosen instrument.

Ensembles take place at our Music Centres across the county after school and at weekends. Each ensemble offers opportunities to perform, from local concerts to national and international events and tours for our more senior groups.

For more information please contact **0118 901 2370** or **admin@berkshiremaestros.org.uk**

To register your interest in lessons or ensembles, either at your new school or in one of our music centres, please visit **www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/register**



Why Berkshire Maestros?

VALUE We offer a variety of affordable individual and group lesson options and aim to ensure that every child who wants to learn an instrument, play in an ensemble or sing in a choir can do so. We aim to ensure that musical learning is accessible and inclusive.

CHOICE We offer tuition options across all the main instrument groups, including individual and group lessons. Lessons may be arranged at our music centres or at the student's school. Students may learn just for fun or choose from several different examinations routes. We offer a low-cost instrument hire scheme.

MUSICAL EXCELLENCE We are proud of our reputation for maintaining the highest musical standards. Our work with children and young people has won regular praise from Arts Council England.

TEACHING STANDARDS All our staff are interviewed and auditioned for their suitability as both teachers and musicians. We provide a Continuing Professional Development programme and all teachers are regularly observed as part of an annual appraisal cycle. A dedicated customer service team deals with all administrative, payment and customer service queries, leaving teachers free to focus on teaching music.

PROGRESSION Our students play for pleasure as well as developing their performance skills. Many achieve membership of county level choirs, ensembles and orchestras. Pupils who show exceptional musical ability, potential or promise may be considered for membership of Maestros Exceptional Ability Scheme and gain access to Academy courses, Enrichment activities and events to help develop their musical skills to the highest level.

FACILITIES Our fully-equipped music centres in Bracknell, Newbury, Reading and Windsor and local satellite centres in Caversham, Wokingham Bulmershe and Wokingham Emmbrook mean you never have far to travel. Each has a parent waiting area and free car parking.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT At Berkshire Maestros we take an holistic approach to our students' musical development. Our students have access to numerous musical activities including ensemble playing, choirs, courses and workshops with external professionals. We provide and encourage performance opportunities at major venues to help boost confidence and provide motivation. Venues include; The Hexagon, The Anvil and even the Royal Albert Hall. Berkshire Maestros is a great place to make friends and develop key skills such as listening, communication, confidence, self-esteem and social skills.

For more information please contact **0118 901 2370** or **admin@berkshiremaestros.org.uk**

To register your interest in lessons or ensembles, either at your new school or in one of our music centres, please visit **www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/register**