

# **Private Instrumental Music Tuition**

**Repton Foundation School Abu  
Dhabi**

**Parent Information Handbook**

**Revised: November 2018**



## Parent Information Handbook

“The benefits of learning an instrument are considerable, boosting **brain power**, self esteem and concentration. What's more, making music can be a fun, rewarding and lifelong pastime. You never know, your child might even build a career out of it.”

(<http://www.parentdish.co.uk/kids/learning-a-musical-instrument-as-a-child/>)

### Instrument Tuition Available at Repton Abu Dhabi

At time of printing, the instrument available to children at Repton Foundation School is Provided by International Music Institute.

Further information regarding our instructors can be found at IMI's website or via SeeSaw.

Children should own or hire an instrument if they are to benefit the most from their lessons. Repton Abu Dhabi does not have the facilities to hire instruments at this stage.

### Lesson Times

Lessons are provided weekly, the times being arranged by the Instrumental Instructor in consultation with the Classroom Teacher and Head of Music. Lessons are provided on a rotational basis, the times change weekly.

Lessons are rotational and will be at a different time every week.

Swimming and PE will never have an instrumental lesson during any or part of the lesson.

Core lessons, English, Maths, Science and Arabic, can be missed. The impact will be kept to a minimum and not consecutive weeks.

Lessons which take place once or twice a week, library, music, art and humanities, can be scheduled over. The impact will be kept to a minimum and not consecutive weeks.

Lunchtime will be missed by no more than 30 minutes and not over consecutive weeks.

Snack and play time scheduling will be kept to a minimum.

Lessons will not take place during a class room assessment lesson. However, class teachers are asked to check the time of each peripatetic lesson to ensure no clash will occur. If there is a clash, please contact Ellen James (Rose) or Nisreen Jardeneh (Fry) prior to the lesson day to reorganise.



## Fees

Fees are payable directly by parents to the providers. The providers will provide with the information regarding payment. The Instrumental providers send invoices and receipts to parents.

Each provider has their own due by date, which is stated on the invoice but it is recommended that fees be paid before the start of the term.

## Attendance

Parents are asked to contact their child's teacher directly if their child is unable to attend the scheduled lesson. Lessons missed without notice to the teacher are not "made up." While the instrumental teachers do have access to Engage, it is advisable to let them know in advance if there is a scheduled school excursion as this avoids all confusion.

Peripatetic staff leave the last week of term as a period for 'make up' lessons. If your child has missed a lesson during the term, it will be made up during this week. The peripatetic staff will inform you in advance of the make up date and time.

## Performance Opportunities

Instrumental teachers hold Music Assemblies toward the end of each term. These are held at the Repton Abu Dhabi during a Sunday. Music Assemblies are an informal way for all children, no matter how long they have been learning to perform for others.

Performance is a major part of learning an instrument. While many are nervous at their first, second, or even third performance, the relaxed atmosphere of the performances help the children to become less nervous as they become more experienced. This dealing with nerves is not only important for musical performance, but will also help them in their school life, as they present school work to their class mates or during Assemblies and then later in life. Many children who begin performance early enough don't display performance anxiety for no other reason than they don't know they should.

## Reports

A progress report will be sent home with your child's school reports at the end of Terms 1 and 3. The report will assist you and your child to monitor their instrumental progress.

Written by: Miss Ellen James

Reviewed Date: November 2018

Next Review Date: November 2019



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Is my child suited to learning a musical instrument?**

In short, yes, all children can learn a musical instrument. It is just a matter of finding which is the correct one.

### **I want my child to learn an instrument but don't know which one**

The most effective way for a child to choose an instrument is for them to choose the sound they like. Many children are influenced by how an instrument looks or even how the person playing it looks. The easiest way for children to access instrumental music is to have music playing in the background at home or in the car. Children can quickly decide if they like the sound of an instrument or not. If they do not like the sound of an instrument, they will not enjoy lessons or home practice.

Many children begin with Piano lessons as it is a good instrument on which to set the foundations of Music. However, this is not an essential starting point. Instruments such as violin, cello or guitar are also good beginner instruments as they literally come in smaller sizes for smaller children.

### **How old should my child be before they begin lessons?**

This depends on the child and the parents. Learning an instrument is an academic endeavour as much as a physical one. Many children begin learning at a young age and find, that if they have a parent who will practise with them regularly, the instrument is a lot of fun. On the other hand, those children who are expected to practise on their own or who are not encouraged to practise at all, tend to become frustrated and stop their instrument. Indeed, this applies to older children as well.

### **The Practice of Practise**

Learning a musical instrument can be a lonely hobby, particularly for young children. Practise at home is always made easier if someone is there to lend a hand and support. Even if you do not read music, your support is always the best way to ensure your child practises consistently. Perhaps pop in to have a listen before the end of the practise or, if you can, spend a while going through their homework, just as you would for the Reading or Maths work.

Your child's teacher will let you know how much time is required and what your child should practise each week.