

REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS

from September 2026 to August 2027

From time to time, we will update these Regulations and Conditions and will always contact you to notify of any changes.

This is a document for parents/carers, or schools on behalf of a parent/carer. You must be over 18 to apply for our services and you must have legal responsibility for any child named.

If you are a school applying on behalf of a parent/carer for a pupil in your school, the school takes full responsibility for abiding by the Regulations and Conditions, including being held liable for any debt incurred.

Glossary:

Throughout this document, the following terms are used:

- "you" refers to "you, the parent or carer" [or "school" if the school makes the application]
- "instrument" or "instrumental" includes "vocal" and "singing"
- "SpeedAdmin" is the parent portal through which you manage your account
- "pupil" refers to "all children and young people"
- "year" refers to the academic year September to August
- "WSM" refers to "West Sussex Music"

1. Lessons

The standard course of instrumental lessons at **schools** is **33 lessons** across the year.

The standard course of instrumental lessons at **Music Centre** is **30 lessons** across the year.

Group lessons for three or more pupils are 30 minutes duration. A group of two pupils will share a group lesson of 20 minutes duration. If a teacher has a single "group" pupil, fortnightly 20-minute individual lessons will be scheduled until it is possible to revert to weekly group lessons.

Please note: Every effort is made to group pupils on the same instrument and at the same stage (grade) of learning, however this is not always possible, and the teacher reserves the right to teach groups of mixed instruments and mixed abilities.

Individual lessons are taught in 20-minute or 30-minute durations. Longer lessons are also available in 40-minute or 60-minute durations. The option of individual lesson length is determined by the teacher's availability and judgement.

Online lessons: by agreeing to our online lesson policy, we reserve the right to offer online lessons where face-to-face lessons are not possible because of school closure or teacher absence.

2. Lesson choice

It is not possible to offer teaching on the full range of instruments or choice of lesson type in every school. If WSM is unable to offer lessons in a school as requested, we may offer lessons on an alternative instrument or signpost to an Associate Tutor. Associate Tutors are approved, independent providers and not employed by WSM. Associates set their own rates and agreements with parents/carers and are not subject to these Regulations and Conditions.

3. Music Centre activities

The standard course of Music Centre activities is **30 sessions** across the year. New members benefit from the first session being a free taster session.

Music Centre sessions take place on Saturdays or weekday evenings during term time. The activities are led by WSM teachers and Associate Tutors. Music Centre activities are open to children and young people up to the age of 21 in full-time education or a gap-year. Some activities are age-specific, and some require pupils to have reached a minimum standard before they are eligible to join. Membership of West Sussex Youth Orchestras and Choirs may be subject to a competitive audition.

4. Instrument hire

We have a limited stock of instruments to support pupils learning through WSM or with an Associate Tutor. Although we always try to help, we cannot guarantee to provide an instrument for every pupil. Priority will be given to families eligible for the Bursary Fund and for pupils in their first year of lessons. The period of hire is initially for one school year but may, subject to availability, be extended. If instrument hire starts in the second half of a term, a charge of 50% will be made for this initial part term. The instrument is to be used only by the pupil named in the hire agreement. The instrument remains the property of WSM. Instruments may be available for private hire to pupils not learning their instrument through WSM or its associates. Please be aware that if the instrument is subsequently required by a WSM pupil, we reserve the right to cancel the agreement with at least 6 weeks' notice.

5. Application process

When an application for lessons, Music Centre membership, or instrument hire is received a parent/carer account is created in SpeedAdmin. SpeedAdmin is the parent portal where you can view your account, pay invoices, and view messages regarding your child's activities.

All correspondence from WSM will use the details supplied at application. It is the account holder's responsibility to keep the contact details up to date.

Lessons

Once your application has been processed, the pupil will be placed on the relevant teacher's waiting list. The instrumental teacher will contact you to let you know when lessons might start. Please note that the lesson start date will depend on the spaces available.

Music Centre membership

We aim to turn around your application swiftly. Please note that for some activities it may not always be possible to start immediately.

Instrument hire

It is the parent's/carer's responsibility to apply for instrument hire when a lesson start date has been confirmed with the teacher. Not doing so may result in the instrument not being available for the first lesson. We will contact you when your instrument is available. Instruments can be collected from our instrument store at Petworth, or we can arrange to send the instrument to a school which is part of the West Sussex schools' courier route, allowing two school weeks for delivery.

6. The cost of lessons, Music Centre membership, and instrument hire

Payment is either by 12 equal payments via direct debit or 3 termly payments payable on issue of invoice. New starters are required to pay their first invoice before lessons, Music Centre membership, or instrument hire starts.

Lessons

Group	£9.90 per lesson
Individual 20	£17.20 per lesson
Individual 30	£25.70 per lesson

- School-based lessons are invoiced in advance at **11** lessons per term; however, teachers may offer more or fewer lessons in each term as long as the full course of 33 is offered across the year.
- Music Centre lessons are invoiced in advance at **10** lessons per term with the full course being 30 lessons across the year.

Pupils starting part way through a term will be invoiced pro rata for the number of lessons remaining in that term.

Instrument hire £36.40 per term, per instrument

Costs of instrument hire to pupils having private tuition are available on request and is billed via monthly payment plan.

Music Centre – termly membership subscription* per child (includes one activity)

Membership*	£80 per term
1 additional activity	+ £48 per term (£128 total)
2+ additional activities	+ £84 per term (£164 total)

*If you are a UK taxpayer, you are encouraged to maximise your membership subscription by agreeing to **Gift Aid** it to West Sussex Music Trust (Charity No 1152703). By agreeing to **Gift Aid** your subscription, we can claim 25p for every £1 of the membership from HM Revenue and Customs.

7. Help with costs

The WSM Bursary Fund can support children and young people aged 5-18 years of age, living in West Sussex, or attending a West Sussex maintained school (local authority, academy, or free school). For pupils learning with a WSM teacher or Associate Tutor, the Bursary Fund can give a reduction on WSM rates for:

- Group lessons for one instrument only (subject to availability of funds)
- Music Centre membership
- Instrument hire fees (one instrument only)

Major Bursary

To qualify, supporting evidence must be provided of:

- Receiving benefits-related free school meals, or
- A Child in Care, or
- Refugee status.

Minor Bursary

Available for pupils whose school is unable to support them through pupil premium funding and whose parent/carer receives one or more of the following:

- Income Support/Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Child Tax Credit/ Working Tax Credit/Universal Credit
- Incapacity Benefit
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)

8. How to pay

We will contact you when fees are due. Payments should be made via:

- **Direct debit:** If you would like to spread your payments across monthly instalments, please contact us at music@westsussexmusic.co.uk to arrange a payment plan.
- **SpeedAdmin parent portal:** By debit or credit card (not American Express)

- **Bank transfer:** Pay via your online banking to Sort Code 82-60-13 Account Number 10037938. Please ensure you quote your **debtor number** with your payment.
- **Telephone:** Pay by debit or credit card on 01403 286330 between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Please note: We do not accept cash, cheques, or childcare vouchers.

9. What happens if payment is late?

New starters – have **48 hours** to pay the invoice or agree a payment plan by direct debit. Activities (lessons, instrument hire, Music Centre membership) will not start until payment has been received.

Ongoing pupils - Full payment is due **14 days** from the date of invoicing unless a payment plan by direct debit is agreed with us. If payment is late, the pupil will not be entitled to take part in activities. If a direct debit payment is missed due to insufficient funds, WSM will apply a £5 administration charge to your account and will collect this charge in full on the next direct debit collection.

The status of a payer's account will affect all services provided by us. Please ensure prompt payment to avoid disruption to any other services provided by WSM. If you experience financial difficulty or hardship, that might affect your ability to pay on time, please contact music@westsussexmusic.co.uk or call 01403 286330 in confidence.

10. Discontinuing lessons, Music Centre membership, or instrument hire

Your WSM lessons, Music Centre membership, or instrument hire will continue term on term, year on year until written notice to discontinue is received at music@westsussexmusic.co.uk

If you wish to discontinue, notice must be given to music@westsussexmusic.co.uk by:

- Friday 21 August 2026 to cancel before the start of the autumn term
- Friday 18 December 2026 to cancel before the start of the spring term
- Thursday 25 March 2027 to cancel before the start of the summer term
- Friday 20 August 2027 to cancel before the start of the autumn term 2027

Please note: verbal or written notice via a teacher to discontinue is not accepted.

Lessons

If notice to discontinue lessons is not received by the dates above, the following charges remain payable:

- Up to 14 days from invoice date: 50% lesson fees
- 15 days, or more, from invoice date: Full-term fees

Music Centre

Music Centre membership may be stopped at any time within the year, although a membership subscription already invoiced for that term will remain due and any subscription already paid will not be refunded.

Instrument hire

Instrument hire may be stopped at any time within the year, although any hire fees already paid for that term will not be refunded. It is your responsibility to notify us immediately, in writing, if you no longer require instrument hire for your child. We will then advise you how to return the instrument.

- If you end instrument hire within 2 weeks of invoice date, we will credit your account upon receipt of returned instrument.
- If you end instrument hire after 2 weeks of invoice date, you will be liable for the full cost of termly hire.

The hire agreement and any future invoicing will cease only once the instrument has been received at WSM. You remain liable for any loss or damage until we confirm that the instrument has been received by WSM in good condition. If the instrument is not returned to us, WSM reserves the right to replace the instrument at the hirer's expense.

11. Closing your account

Ending activities does not close your payer account if there is an outstanding balance. Outstanding balances must be cleared immediately. If you pay by direct debit, please do not cancel with your bank until your account balance has been paid in full. We will apply a £5 charge to your WSM account if a direct debit payment fails due to you cancelling your direct debit mandate before your account balance is cleared. If you wish for your personal details to be deleted from WSM records, please email music@westsussexmusic.co.uk Please note that deletion is only possible if all invoices are settled and there is no outstanding balance on your account.

12. Data Protection - Privacy notice

WSM will only use any personal information you provide about you or your child to administer your account and provide products, services and related information. Please be aware that WSM will only communicate with the named parent/carer on an application form. We will require signed consent if you wish someone else to deal with your account on your behalf.

When sending emails to parents/carers, WSM will always send emails via its @westsussexmusic.co.uk address; send to parents/carers, not children; send teaching timetables only to the parents/carers of children at the same school (please be aware this may identify your child by name and tutor group/class). If you declare any medical conditions or other sensitive information which is essential for the safeguarding of your child, this will be shared with teachers as required. WSM staff adhere to current data protection legislation and our 'Acceptable Use of IT' policy. Our full Privacy Notice can be found on our website.

Please note that although Associate Tutors and volunteer helpers are not employed by WSM there may be occasions where a child's data will be shared for the purpose of safeguarding or other legal/statutory obligation (e.g. attendance registers for safety purposes at Music Centres and external events).

13. Enquiries, questions, and contacts

For enquiries about your account, for payment, and for general enquiries, please contact WSM by email at music@westsussexmusic.co.uk or telephone 01403 286330. For questions about your child's lessons, please contact the instrumental teacher via the parent portal, by email to their @westsussexmusic.co.uk address, or a note in the practice diary for the next lesson.

Additional information

Lessons

14. If the pupil misses a lesson

If a lesson is offered but has been missed because the pupil has been absent or unavailable, a refund or credit will not be given.

15. If the teacher misses a lesson

If a lesson cannot be offered due to teacher absence, eg. teacher illness or whole-school closure, the teacher will make every effort to reschedule a cancelled lesson.

If the full course of lessons has not been offered across the academic year, a refund or credit will be given if you apply to WSM by 31 July. The amount of the lesson refund will be calculated according to the shortfall in the number of lessons invoiced and paid and will be made after the end of the school year on application to music@westsussexmusic.co.uk (not on a term-by-term basis). If lessons start part way through the year, the amount refunded will be calculated pro-rata. Refunds are not available with respect to instrument hire or Music Centre membership.

16. Summer term arrangements for Year 11 & 13 pupils

We recognise how important it is to maintain continuity of lessons during the summer term, particularly during the public exam period for Year 11 and Year 13 pupils. Your child's teacher will contact you in March, once schools and colleges have issued personalised exam timetables, to plan lessons for the summer term. This will help maximise your child's attendance at in-person lessons. Your summer term invoice will reflect the number of lessons agreed in advance with the teacher.

17. Groups of one

If a child is a teacher's sole group pupil at a school and there are no pupils on the waiting list then, as a temporary measure, fortnightly individual 20-minute lessons will be scheduled until others join.

18. Reporting on progress

Progress will be monitored continuously. An end of term progress summary informs parents/carers and pupils of their progress in the autumn and spring terms. In July, an annual pupil report is issued for each pupil. Regular contact should be maintained between teacher and parent by means of the weekly practice diary, via the parent portal, or by email.

19. Other costs

You are expected to provide music and relevant accessories, e.g. reeds, strings etc, and to pay for any external examination for which you wish your child to be entered, including accompanist's fee.

Music Centre

20. Welfare of pupils at Music Centre

It is expected that pupils will arrive in good time for the start of their activity. Should your child need to be absent for an activity, inform music.centre@westsussexmusic.co.uk in advance of the session.

Parents/carers are expected to collect their child from the main entrance or, for younger children, from the rehearsal room. Staff members on the door will oversee pupils leaving and ensure that younger pupils are met by a parent. If pupils are travelling independently the parent/carer may be asked to verify this arrangement in writing.

Parents/carers must advise their child not to leave the premises with anyone other than the nominated responsible adult. Pupils must tell a member of staff if they are ever approached or offered a lift by a stranger.

Music Centre staff may on occasion need to release a pupil for good reason for part of an activity, for example to use the toilet. Pupils are expected to return to their activity as soon as possible and staff cannot be held responsible for pupils who do not return promptly. It is strictly forbidden for pupils to leave an activity without previously obtaining the permission of a member of staff.

21. Other Music Centre costs

Please note that an additional local charge may be raised for uniforms, courses, tours, and audience attendance at concerts. Some activities may require pupils to supply their own resources e.g. books, pencils, mutes, and music stand.

Instrument hire

22. Use of the instrument

No sub-letting or loaning of instruments to others is permitted. The instrument is intended for the sole use of the pupil named in the hire agreement.

23. Looking after the instrument

We aim to issue the instrument in good condition and expect it to be looked after and returned in the same condition with all the accessories. You will be responsible for the cost of any repairs or damage however caused and for consumables such as replacement strings, rosin, reeds, grease, and oils. If the instrument gets damaged or requires maintenance contact WSM immediately. Do not organise your own repair. If the instrument cannot be repaired, you will be charged the current value of the instrument.

24. Instrument insurance

By agreeing to these Regulations and Conditions you are acknowledging responsibility for all loss or damage to the instrument even if caused by acts or events outside of your control. Please check your home contents insurance policy carefully; for some high value instruments you may need to take out extra cover.

Indicative insurance values:

- Up to £500 clarinet, flute, guitar, keyboard, viola, violin, cornet, trombone, trumpet
- £501 – £800 baritone horn, cello, French horn, saxophone, tenor horn
- £801 – £1,999 bassoon, double bass, oboe, tuba
- £2000+ for high value instruments we reserve the right to request a deposit and proof of insurance cover. High value instruments must be collected and returned in person to our instrument store.