



January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that as your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, or is eligible for funding for another reason, it means that some funding is available to help support them in learning a musical instrument if they wish to. Overleaf you will find the details of the visiting instrumental teachers (VITs) that work privately to offer our pupils lessons. All lessons are individual unless stated otherwise. The individual teacher, although monitored by the school, sets the cost of the lessons. The funding is for one instrument.

Funding as follows:

1st term – 70% funded by school, 30% funded by family (e.g. from £3 per week).

2nd term onwards – 50% funded by school, 50% funded by family.

If your child is in Year 9 or above and is studying Music or Music Technology, then funding will be 70% school and 30% family for the whole year and continuing this way whilst they study Music or Music Technology in the curriculum. Should you wish your child to have instrumental lessons at Gillingham School, please complete and return the form attached as soon as possible. Lessons will start as soon as possible and if the teacher is full then you will be placed on a waiting list. **By returning the application form you are committed to the first term's tuition. If at any time you wish to cease tuition, then written notice is required in accordance with the conditions stated in the contract you will sign in due course from the teacher.**

All pupils receive lessons on a rota basis and your child's teacher will contact you to introduce themselves and outline their own individual terms and conditions. Timetables are displayed on the notice board outside C5 (Music classroom). All VITs have completed the appropriate enhanced disclosure checks.

If your child requires instrumental lessons but they do not have an instrument, then please indicate this on the application form and the teacher will do their best to assist you. The school does have some instruments available for loan and further information regarding this can be obtained by request. Instruments currently available: Flute, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Violin, Viola, 'Cello and Double Bass. Instruments are also available for hire from Dorset Music Hub at very competitive rates.

Please also find attached some information regarding the extracurricular activities that the department offers. As well as performing in our regular concerts, students have the opportunity to take part in the school musical production ('Shrek the Musical' Feb 2025), in music festivals and competitions and in the community and charity events that we support. GYJO, Concert Band and Orchestra have toured to the Netherlands, Germany, Czechia, Italy (twice), Spain and Austria and Vocal Group have toured to Belgium. In July 2026 we travel to Paris, France. We look forward to seeing your child involved in these extra-curricular activities.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Carey Head of Music

Ms Jenny Ridley -

Alto Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Recorder

Headteacher P Nicholson BEd (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers M Lavis M Ed S Turnbull MA

Hardings Lane, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QP 01747 822222 office@gillingham-dorset.co.uk

BA (Hons) PGCE

£11.76 20mins

£17.64 30mins

£8.82 30mins pair

Mr Barry Deacon -

Clarinet/Alto Sax

BA

£12 20mins

£18 30mins

Miss Anthea Wood -

Bassoon

BMus (Hons) PGDip-Perf RNCM

£20 30mins

£27 40mins

£40 60mins

Mr Marcus Adams -

Brass

DipABRSM

£10.50 20mins

£13.65 30mins

Ms Victoria Mogridge -

Violin/Viola

PGCE

£16.50 30mins

Ms Janet Coles -

'Cello/Double Bass/Piano/Theory

LTCL ATCL AMusTCL

£11.50 20mins

£17 30mins

£9 30mins group of 2

Mrs Alison Carey -

Piano/Flute/Recorder/Theory/Electronic Keyboard

Headteacher P Nicholson BEd (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers M Lavis Med S Turnbull MA

Hardings Lane, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QP 01747 822222 office@gillingham-dorset.co.uk

BMus (Hons) PGCE CT ABRSM ATCL **CURRENTLY FULL**

£12 20mins
£18 30mins
£36 60mins

Mr Guy Gardner - Piano

BA (Hons) PGCE **CURRENTLY FULL**
£12 20mins
£18 30mins

Mrs Su Dutch - Piano/Flute

BA (Hons) ATCL **CURRENTLY FULL**
£12 20mins
£18 30mins

Mr Sean McGregor-Wiley - Acoustic, Electric & Bass Guitar/Ukulele

£13 20mins
£6.50 20mins group of 2

Mr Shaun Rigby Drum Kit & Percussion (Timpani, Glockenspiel and Aux. Perc.)

BMus (Hons) **CURRENTLY FULL**
£13 20mins
£19.50 30mins
£26 40mins

Mr Russell Parker - Drum Kit

£12 20mins
£18 30mins

Mrs Debbie Cassell - Voice

Headteacher P Nicholson BEd (Hons)
Deputy Headteachers M Lavis Med S Turnbull MA
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BA (Hons)

£12 20mins

£18 30mins

Mr Mark James -

Voice

DipLCM

£10.50 20 mins

£15 30 mins

£7.50 30 mins group of 2

Application for Instrumental Tuition

Headteacher P Nicholson BEd (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers M Lavis Med S Turnbull MA

Hardings Lane, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QP 01747 822222 office@gillingham-dorset.co.uk

Summer Term 2026

Student Name: Tutor Group:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Contact Address:

Contact Phone No:

Contact Email:

Instrument(s) and teacher(s) required:

Group / Individual (please delete)
20mins / 30mins

Group / Individual (please delete)
20mins / 30mins

Approx. current standard:

Do you need information on hiring/purchasing an instrument? YES / NO

Are you in receipt of Free School Meals (or eligible for funding for another reason)? YES

Parent/guardian signature:

Please return to: Mr Carey (Head of Music) – C5