

Flute Tuition

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Does your child play recorder?

Playing fife (then flute) is a fantastic progression from learning recorder, to develop what has already been learned and progress onto an orchestral instrument! Most of the basic finger patterns are the same on both instruments.

The information below answers any questions you may have with regard to the structure and cost of lessons and instruments available.

Firstly, lessons take place during the school day. Lessons are usually worked on a rota so that students do not miss the same class lesson each week. Your child may have an individual lesson, or be taught in a group of 2 or 3. Please note that group lessons will only be available if numbers permit. An outline of fees, per lesson, is detailed below.

	20 minutes	30 minutes
Individual	£11.33	£17
Group of 2	N/A	£9.50
Group of 3	N/A	£7

You will be advised of the lessons to be given at the beginning of each term and sent an invoice for fees.

General Information regarding Instrumental Lessons

1. **Fees** are to be paid within the first two weeks of each term, directly to Mrs B. Sykes. An invoice will be forwarded to you and you can either post cheques to the address above, give it to your child on the day of their lesson or use a bank transfer, details will be on your invoice.
2. **Refunds.** If the scheduled number of lessons is not given, either the follow term's fee will be reduced pro-rata or extra lessons will be given in lieu.
3. Unfortunately lessons missed due to the student's absence cannot be refunded except in exceptional circumstances.
4. Parents are requested to give no less than half a term's notice in writing, to myself, if a child no longer wishes to continue learning their instrument

There are three options when starting to learn the flute.

1. You can choose to begin with a full sized flute, which can create problems because of its size and weight. This is dependent on the size of the student: not reaching keys comfortably, awkward mouth position etc. It is still a possibility having said this.
2. Another alternative is to begin on a flute that has a curved head joint, which allows the student to reach the keys more easily and comfortably. Flutes can be purchased (or hired) with both curved and straight head joints, they are slightly more expensive than those with only one head joint, but are well worth it if needed.
3. The third option is to begin learning using a fife, which is a moulded plastic instrument, similar to a recorder except that it has the mouth hole of a flute and it is played horizontally like a flute. Starting on such an instrument enables the student ensure that a good mouth and hand position is established as well as basic fingerings without any of the possible problems of a larger, heavier instrument. It also gives students a feel for the instrument before buying a flute. Students then progress onto one of the above instruments when a certain level of competence is achieved.

I recommend that students play a Yamaha or myfife fife as it's moulding is closest to the shape of a flute. A fife, 'The Fife Book' and a carry bag package can be purchased for £15.95 (+ P&P) from [justflutes.com](https://www.justflutes.com)
<https://www.justflutes.com/shop/product/myfife-pack-ultraviolet-fife-liz-goodwin> - they are available in lots of great colours too!

There are various makes and prices of student model flutes on the market. If you would like any details or advice on buying or renting an instrument, I am happy to give my opinion and advice.

For your information, student model flutes cost between about £350 and £550 new.

If you wish your son or daughter to have flute/fife lessons, please contact me directly on 07963 733222 or email me at barbara.flute@hotmail.co.uk to discuss length and type of lesson and any other queries you may have. Please note that group lessons are dependant on numbers of students. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

Barbara Sykes