

Woodwind lessons at OLC Primary School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted to offer the opportunity for clarinet, flute, saxophone and recorder lessons during school hours at Our Lady of Compassion Primary School.

My name is Jude Zarzycka and I have worked as a peripatetic music teacher and freelance performer for over 20 years since graduating in performance from the Birmingham Conservatoire. I teach pupils of all ages and abilities, but I particularly enjoy giving young children a great start to their musical journey in a fun and encouraging environment!

If your child is interested in learning a woodwind instrument, I am always happy to answer any questions you may have and meet with the children to ensure their hands and fingers are suitable for the instrument they would like to play.

There are two lesson options available:

- 20 minute individual lesson (£11 per lesson)
- 30 minute shared lesson (£10 per lesson)

There will be 33 lessons throughout the school year. Lessons will be invoiced termly and payment is required in advance of the first lesson of each term.

Each child will need their own instrument. A list of recommended makes and models is provided below, although I am also very happy to offer personalised advice when choosing an instrument.

If you would like to register for lessons or ask any questions, please complete the following Google Form <https://forms.gle/SiiKbFr45zDGSqLs8>.

I will then contact you with further details and to answer any questions you may have. Please also find attached the terms and conditions for lessons.

All best wishes,

Mrs Jude Zarzycka

Terms and Conditions: Instrumental Lessons with Mrs Zarzycka

Registration of Instrument Lessons:

- Your child's name will remain on a waiting list until I (the teacher) allocate a day and time for the lesson. Confirmation of lesson information will then be emailed to you (the parent/guardian).

Instruments

- Your child will need to have their own instrument for their lessons and bring this into school each week. You can either hire or buy an instrument and I am always happy to advise. All students will need to purchase a recommended book to learn from, and clarinet and saxophone students will also need a regular supply of reeds.

Fees

- Fees are valid for the academic year and are reviewed annually, but you will be notified in advance of any changes to lesson prices. Fees for the academic year 2026-27 will be
 - Individual 20-minute lesson - £11 per lesson
 - Shared 30-minute lesson - £10 per lesson
- Fees for instrumental lessons will be charged on a termly basis in advance and will be based on the number of scheduled teaching weeks in that term, therefore there will be variations in each invoice. The total number of lessons per academic year is 33.

Lessons

- A total of 33 lessons will be delivered across the academic year. This allows for some flexibility with the 39-week school year, taking into account school events and trips that may result in missed lessons.
- Lessons will usually be taught on the same day each week, so your child will need to bring their instrument and music into school on this day.

Payment

- Payments are made for lessons on a termly basis and are paid in advance.
- All invoices must be paid in full before lessons will commence for each term.
- If an invoice has not been paid, parents will be contacted, and if fees remain unpaid then the registration of lessons may be cancelled.
- A student may only be withdrawn from lessons at the end of a term. If you wish to stop lessons then please give half a term's notice and inform me via email.

Credits/Refunds

- If a lesson has to be cancelled by the teacher due to unforeseen circumstances this will be communicated via email. If possible, a rescheduled lesson will be arranged within the academic year, otherwise at the end of the year a refund will be paid. Catch-up lessons during the year are only guaranteed for lessons cancelled by the teacher. They are not routinely offered for forgotten lessons or student absences.
- Refunds are not offered for students who miss lessons either through school or absence from school.
- Requests for refunds must be made in writing via email and will be considered on a case-by-case basis but I (the teacher) reserve the right to refuse any requests for refunds.

Instrument Recommendations

Please feel free to ask for individual advice before buying or hiring any instrument, I am always happy to help!

I always recommend buying or hiring a good make of instrument to start with if possible, as this will help your child to improve more quickly. Poor quality instruments are often a false economy as they regularly break, and can leave pupils feeling frustrated when they are difficult to play.

Hiring an Instrument

Hiring first is a great way to try before you buy. <https://www.uksaxhire.com/> is the most cost-effective provider I have found, although lots of other woodwind shops offer this option too. You can usually choose to buy the instrument you have been renting after a few months. Although some of the hire options are not mentioned in my recommended makes below, any model that is being hired out will have been serviced and will be suitable for beginners.

Buying an Instrument

Secondhand instruments are often a great way to get a good quality instrument for a fraction of the price. If you ask friends and family you may find someone has one that they are happy to lend to you. Many large shops offer finance options, including an interest free loan over 9 months through the Take It Away scheme, which allows you to spread the purchase price (Dawkes Music is one shop that offers this option [Finance terms and conditions](#)).

Flute

Recommended makes are Yamaha YFL 212, and Trevor James and Pearl are also good quality. You can also get curved head flutes for students whose arms are a little too short for a regular sized flute. Current hire prices are £9-24 per month.

Clarinet

Recommended makes are Buffet B12 and Buffet Prodigie, and beginner instruments by Leblanc, Backun, Yamaha and Jupiter are also good quality. Current hire prices are £9-24 per month.

You will also need a regular supply of B flat clarinet reeds (Vandoren size 1.5 costing approx. £2.50 each), although if you take care of them they will last for weeks.

Saxophone

Students start learning on an alto saxophone, and recommended makes are Trevor James Alphasax to begin with (as it is a lighter version for younger players), and Jupiter, Trevor James and Yamaha are also very good quality. Current hire prices are £24-34 per month.

You will also need a regular supply of alto saxophone reeds (Vandoren size 1.5 costing approx. £3.00 each), although if you take care of them they will last for weeks.

Recorder

You will need a descant recorder (baroque fingering) to start with. Recommended brands are Yamaha and Aulos, and a new beginner instrument will cost £7-20.