
Sandford Park School Music Department



Music Department

Instrumental Lessons, Choirs and Ensembles

2024 - 2025



Instrumental Faculty 2024/2025

Instrumental Lesson

Coordinator:

Jim Murphy

Classical, Rock & Bass Guitar:

*Brinsley Doran
Chien Buggle*

Voice:

Joan O'Malley

Drums / Percussion:

Kevin Brady

Piano:

*Barbara Strahan
Cecile Gorge*

Violin:

Lucy Varney

Viola:

Lucy Varney

Clarinet/Saxophone:

Brian Wynne



Mission Statement:

Music is an important part of Sandford Park School's curricular and co-curricular life. We aim to make it accessible to all, regardless of level of ability. We provide an opportunity for students to learn an instrument and take voice lessons. We encourage students to explore their creative side and participate in ensembles, choir, school concerts and various competitions. Music is offered as a subject in the curriculum for the Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate.



Instrumental Lessons

Lessons are given during the school day on a rota designed to avoid regular interruption to any single academic subject. Each student receives one 40 minute lesson most weeks, with a total of 30 lessons given during the school year. There may be occasional weeks when a teacher is unavailable to teach due to other musical commitments but this is taken into account in the term structure. Classes can be arranged to take place before and after school hours in certain circumstances.



Tuition Available in

- Drums/Percussion
- Piano
- Rock, Classical & Bass Guitar
- Voice
- Violin
- Viola
- Clarinet and Saxophone

Lesson Administration

Lessons are spread across the entire school year from September to May. Any lessons missed by teachers are made up but lessons missed by students are not.

Students should excuse themselves from class and make their own way to lessons. They should also ensure that they catch up on any work missed in class and complete any homework given. Attendance at music lessons is not accepted as an excuse for failure to present homework.

Fees for instrumental lessons appear on the school account in September and February. It is possible that fees for the second term will appear on the school account before the first term's lessons have been received. This is because not all teachers will finish their term of 15 lessons at the same time. Lessons commence on receipt of full payment.

Notice of withdrawal from lessons must be received in writing in advance of the commencement of a term. Lessons cannot be terminated during a term and a student who is withdrawn from lessons during term will be liable for a full term's fees.



How to Apply

Return the enclosed Application Form to the school office or download a copy from www.sandfordparkschool.ie and return it to the school. You can also email your name, your son's or daughter's name, class and choice of instrument to admin@sandfordparkschool.ie – entering Instrumental Lessons in the subject line of your email.

Places cannot be guaranteed if an application is received after the second week of August in the year of admission.

Commitment

Student Commitment

- Check each week for lesson times.
- Be on time for lessons with instrument and music.
- Practise regularly.
- Participate, if invited, in any music ensembles in the school.
- **Let their instrumental teacher know immediately when they become aware that a lesson has been set for a time at which the student knows they cannot attend – for example a class test or medical appointment. A minimum of 24 hours notice is required, where possible, so that teachers can make the necessary changes to their timetable.**
- Catch up with all home and class work missed because of a music lesson.



Parental Commitment

- Give one term's notice in writing of termination of lessons.
- Encourage boys/girls to practise as regularly as possible.
- Encourage participation in school music ensembles.

School Commitment

- Provide high quality instrumental instruction in a pleasant teaching and learning environment.
- Give students advance notice of their lesson times.
- Provide, where possible, ensemble opportunities for all instrumental students in the school.



Junior Cycle, Leaving Certificate and Transition Year Music

Students preparing for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Music are involved in the acquisition of listening, performing and composing skills. Students do not have to play an instrument to take the subject, though they must perform songs or pieces in a class context, either individually or in groups. Some students choose to offer instrumental skills in this context, either as part of an ensemble, or as a soloist. Lack of instrumental skills should not put any student off taking music as a Junior Cycle or Leaving Certificate subject. Transition Year Music, as part of the Creative Arts module, is based on consolidation of listening, performing, and composing skills through vocal physiology, class singing, graphic scores, world music and music technology.

Choral Singing

Sandford Park School has a proud choral tradition. Participation in choral festivals in Ireland and abroad, as well as concert performances and preparation for the performing element in the Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate examinations are the main focus of our work.

Students have toured Sweden, Canada and the United States, including performances and workshops with students and choristers in Stockholm, Calgary, Chicago, Washington DC, Toronto, New York and in Boston.

For 2024 / 2025 we will offer:



Junior Girls' Choir

This choir rehearses on Tuesdays at 15:50. It will include students from Forms 1, 2 and 3, who will learn two and three part repertoire.

Junior Boys' Choir

Boys in Forms 1, 2 and 3 are catered for in this vocal ensemble. Performance at concerts and in assembly is the main focus. The repertoire covered is mainly popular, gospel and folk music. Rehearsals take place on Wednesday mornings at 07.55.



Senior Choir

All students from Forms 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to sing in this choir which rehearses on Thursdays at 15.50.

Orchestra

The Sandford Park School Orchestra has gone from strength to strength in recent years with notable successes in Feis Ceoil, where they achieved 1st place in 2018 and 2019. They have also performed in the National Concert Hall on numerous occasions. The orchestra is aimed at anyone who plays an acoustic instrument and who would like to play in an ensemble. An ability to read music is required. Rehearsals are on Thursday mornings at 07.55.

Traditional Irish Music

Aon Scála is Sandford Park school's traditional Irish music ensemble. Students from all forms are welcome to perform with this group. Its repertoire includes traditional Irish dances and slow airs. Aon Scála perform at the school's Winter and Summer Concerts, and at various competitions throughout the school year. Rehearsals are on Friday mornings at 08.00.



Ensembles – Jazz Group, Rock/Pop Sessions, Samba Club

Opportunities for ensemble playing are offered where possible. In the past we have offered a percussion ensemble class, a guitar quartet class, a woodwind trio, string chamber group, a Jazz Band and piano quartets. These groups are all guaranteed performance opportunities at our Winter and Summer Concerts or at an assembly. Ensembles are normally created on an ad hoc basis with a particular concert or competition in mind.

Battle of the Bands – Rock and Pop

The annual Battle of the Bands event showcases talent amongst the school's many rock musicians. Students are encouraged to rehearse after school to prepare for this hotly contested competition. A trophy and a cash prize are awarded to the overall winner each year.

Music Scholarship

The Board of Governors offers a music scholarship for full or partial remission of school fees for students entering Form 1 who can make an outstanding contribution to the musical life of the school. Scholarship application forms and information are available at www.sandfordparkschool.ie. Students with a music scholarship are expected to take part in at least two school ensembles, to perform at school events, at least two assemblies and to make a very significant contribution to the musical life of the school. Scholarship students are expected to maintain and develop their musical skills and commitment throughout their time at Sandford Park School. Appraisals, conducted by the Music Department, will take place twice during the academic year.



Provisional Music Rehearsal Schedule for 2024-2025

We will webtext if there are unexpected changes to the following schedule.
 Music scholarship students are required to participate in **at least two ensembles**
 (although they are welcome to participate in more).

WHAT GROUP	WHEN	WHERE	PREPARING FOR
Senior Choir	15.50 every Thursday until 16.50	Music Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Concert • Prize Night • Choir Competitions • Summer Concert
Junior Girls' Choir	15.50 every Tuesday until 16.50	C4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Concert • Choir Competitions • Summer Concert
Junior Boys' Choir	07.55 every Wednesday	C4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Concert • Summer Concert
Orchestra	07.55 every Thursday	Lilburn Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Concert • Summer Concert
Trad Group	Friday 08.00	C4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Concert • Summer Concert
Piano Trio	07:55 every Tuesday	MP1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Concert • Competitions • Assemblies • Summer Concert
Jazz Band	13:10 every Wednesday until 14:10	Music Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Concert • Competitions • Summer Concert
Guitar Ensemble	07:55 every Friday	MP3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Concert • Competitions • Assemblies • Summer Concert

Please note that choir rehearsals will also be used to practise lots of vocal ensemble music which may not involve all participants all the time.

We will endeavour to keep you informed by webtext.

Sandford Park School, Ranelagh, Dublin 6 | **Telephone:** 497 1417 | **Fax:** 497 1443 | **Email:** admin@sandfordparkschool.ie

Luas Stations: Beechwood Avenue & Ranelagh | **Buses:** 11, 11A, 11B, 18, 44, 48A

DART Station: Lansdowne Road – Minibus service for students during term time.

