

Learning a musical instrument next year



Our ref:  
Your ref:

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**Learning a musical instrument next year**

*This letter and information booklet (Learning a musical instrument) will help you to support your child in making the right choices when deciding what musical instrument they would like to learn.*

Dear parent/guardian,

In December 2007 the government pledged £82 million for three years of continued funding for Local Authorities to spend on music education, with a further £40 million to purchase new instruments. This *Wider Opportunities* programme is currently being developed nationally to provide enhanced musical experiences for all pupils at Key Stage Two.

The aspiration behind this funding is that by 2011 all primary school pupils who want to will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument for free, normally in a large group or whole class setting for at least a year. At the end of the first free year, all pupils are able to make an informed choice and to genuinely decide if they wish to continue to learn a musical instrument. The government expects that at least 50% of children will want to continue to learn a musical instrument.

This year your child has been involved in a wider opportunities scheme that has given them the chance to experience what it is like to learn a musical instrument. As your child reaches the end of that *wider opportunities* experience, Solihull Music Service would like to find out what instrument they would like to learn next year, if given the chance.

To help schools and Solihull Music Service to plan for the next academic year I would be grateful if you would read the information booklet and discuss with your child which instrument they may wish to learn next year. To help the music service plan for next year please then indicate on the attached sheet which instrument your child would like to learn. *(Please note that this form does not form any binding commitment or contract and is only an indication to help us provisionally plan for next year.)*

Please could you fill in the attached form and return to your child's class teacher by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

If you require any further information about wider opportunities and the routes your child may take please do not hesitate to contact me through Solihull Music Service.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Noakes  
Assistant Head of Solihull Music Service