



CATHLEEN CHESHIRE

MUSIC LESSONS FAQS

What do you teach?

I teach piano, violin and music theory.

How do you teach?

Every student is different and I use a range of methods that suit the individual student's needs. I like everyone to leave their first lesson being able to play something straight away. It is important for students to have a fun, playable piece as well as technical work and something more challenging to work on. A lot of the music we choose to explore together will depend on why you have decided to take up an instrument and what you are interested in learning. This can change over time so I will regularly check in with you and ensure that we are using the most appropriate method for your goals.

Some examples of tuition books I use are:

Piano

Piano Safari, Penelope Roskell, Piano Adventures, Bastien, Piano Stars, Rock School, ABRSM Grades

Violin

Hey Presto, Violin Stars, Eta Cohen, ABRSM grades, Kinsey

What ages do you teach?

Any age! I have taught 3 year olds and 93 year olds and enjoy both equally! Generally I would recommend 6-7 years old as a good age to pick up an instrument. Children younger than this can learn with me but we would focus on general musicianship through games and play that will pre-teach skills needed to learn an instrument. Before starting I would recommend children have a good grasp of the alphabet and basic counting skills. Having said this, I am happy to teach people of all abilities and with differing needs - I love working with anyone who wants to experience and enjoy music!

Do you teach people with SEND?

All of my teaching is heavily informed by the work I regularly do with SEND students in both mainstream and special schools. I aim to use neuroaffirming approaches and incorporate routine, repetition and visual aids so everyone feels well supported. It is my job to make the lessons accessible and I am happy to discuss any additional needs with you before lessons start. I have worked with children with a range of disabilities including visual impairment, autism and ADHD and children with PLMD.

What standard do you teach up to?

I can teach up to Grade 8 on both instruments

Is an instrument needed at home and if so what?

Musicians progress best when they are able to play and experiment on their own instrument at home in between lessons so I would recommend that every student has an instrument at home. This doesn't have to be expensive or new, young pianists can happily use a 5 octave keyboard with full size keys and touch sensitivity and it is totally acceptable to get a second hand instrument. There are also some music schemes where you can rent an instrument but please get in touch for further advice if you are having difficulty accessing an instrument.

What do you charge?

My prices are based on Musician's Union recommended rates:

£40.50 per hour

£20.25 per half hour

Payment Options	Price	Number of lessons	Cancellation notification period
1) Monthly standing order	£60.75	36 per year (cost divided over 12 months)	1 month
2) Termly (12 weeks)	£243	12 per term	1 month
3) Half termly (6 weeks)	£121.50	6 per half term	1 month

If lessons are too expensive I am happy to discuss 20 minute or fortnightly lessons or can signpost you to more accessible lessons via Hampshire Music Service who I also work with.

Are your teaching hours fixed or flexible?

Once a time is agreed it is helpful if we can stick to this time as I have quite a busy schedule! However, I have some flexibility around weekend arrangements as I know Saturdays can be tricky and can discuss rearranging on occasion.

What support do you expect from parents?

Parental support can make a huge difference to keeping your child motivated and engaged! The most important thing is to nurture your child's interest by listening to lots of music at home and if possible attending live music concerts or gigs.

Playing regularly in between lessons is also key but this doesn't have to be half an hour every day necessarily. For young beginners aiming for 3 times a week can be enough to see improvements and once they see they are progressing they can become self-motivated to practice. I can provide a toolkit of efficient practice methods so that play in between lessons is focussed.

What availability slots do you have?

I have some availability at the moment on Saturdays and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. If I become fully booked I will put you on the waiting list and contact you as soon as a space becomes available.