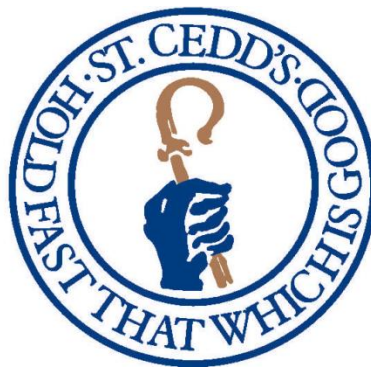


St Cedd's School



MUSIC

- Year 2 Recorder Tuition Guide -



Year 2 Recorder Tuition Guide

Recorder lessons

One 35 minute recorder lesson a week is given to all children in Years 2-4 by the Assistant Director of Music, Mrs Penkett, as part of their standard music education. Pupils in Years 5-6 continue recorder as an extra-curricular activity unless their parents decide that they are not continuing. When pupils go into Year 2 or start Recorder they will be issued with a new recorder and book and the charge will be added to the next term's invoice. If a child already has a recorder they should bring it in to the first lesson and Mrs Penkett will check that it is suitable to use. All recorder pupils need to have a music bag, available from the School Shop.

Aim of the lessons

The primary aim of recorder lessons is to teach pupils to read music, which not only enriches their cultural education and opens future musical opportunities, but has also been proven in several well-researched studies (most notably by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston) to boost brain power and develop neural pathways in young children, whose brains are still developing *"If you want bright children, teach them music, not computer coding."*

Naming the recorder

It is essential to name your child's recorder and the best way to do this is to sew a name tape (or a piece of tape with the name written on it) around the narrow section just above the base. If it is done tightly there is no chance of it being pulled off. Sticky labels and names put on with sticky tape tend to come off the hard shiny surface quite quickly.

How to help your child practise

The best way to make progress is by practising a little and often, and an amount that 6 year olds can cope with. The St Cedd's School Homework Schedule says *"5 minutes each day"* but, as some days are busier than others, Mrs Penkett will tell the pupils that 5 minutes practice on each of 5 days in the week will result in good progress. The average Year 2 pupil will not remember to do this on their own, so we ask parents to help by reminding them to practise each day. It is really valuable to get into a regular practice routine.

How to hold the recorder

The **left hand should always be at the top of the recorder** with the right hand on the lower holes when needed later. Fingers should be placed flat on the holes so that the soft pad of the finger can cover the hole completely and thus avoiding most squeaks.

How to help with reading the music

Mrs Penkett suggests that pupils go through a new piece several times naming the notes out loud before they pick up their recorder. If they still find it difficult to remember a note they can turn back in the book to where the note was introduced, as there will be a picture of what the note looks like on the staff as well as the fingering needed. After a while they will find that this is no longer necessary as they recognise notes immediately.

Once they pick up their recorder, if parents wish to help, they can point to each note as their child is playing it so they do not lose their place in the music. Please **DO NOT write in letter names (or tell them the names)** as they will only look at what has been written in and not read the notes. They need to get used to working out the note names for themselves. Mrs Penkett teaches the children how to work out which note is which if they have forgotten, and stresses the fact that **pausing to work the notes out is fine**.

Whilst not all children will find it easy, it is worth persevering.

Recorder examinations

Taking Recorder examinations is optional. Preparation for these takes place during break/lunchtimes in addition to the timetabled lessons. There is a history of a number of children attaining Grade 8 each year before they leave the school. In fact, a number continue with recorder in secondary school and take diplomas (equivalent to the standard of an end of year recital of the first year of undergraduate study and above) before they leave, thus boosting their university applications.