



Information & Commitments

Curriculum & Pedagogy

We aim to provide lessons that meet the needs of each individual pupil, where they are engaged by their lessons, enjoy them and constantly make progress in their all-round musicianship. Our bespoke curriculum is based on an aural/vocal/movement methodology with an emphasis on progressive learning, inspired by Zoltan Kodaly.

Tutors are all qualified, as a minimum, to degree level in Music and have received specialist training in the aural / vocal approach to music learning. All tutors are expected to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and are committed to the safeguarding of all pupils, in accordance with the [SoMi Academy CIC Safeguarding Policy](#), and have completed mandatory safeguarding training.

SoMi Commitments:

- Weekly lessons in your chosen instrument
- Preparation for performances inside & outside of school
- Access to learning materials via our online system
- Access to exam preparation using the Trinity framework

Pupil Commitments:

- Be prepared for your lesson
- Arrive at your lesson on time every week (Year 7 onwards)
- Bring your music and instrument (if applicable) to lessons
- Practise the homework objectives assigned and agreed with your teacher

Parent Commitments:

- Encourage your child to play on a daily basis and support them in completing their homework/practise objectives from the previous lesson
- Read through and apply our [practice guidelines](#)
- Contact us at info@somiacademy.com if you have any queries or questions

MyMusicStaff

Parents will receive access to our online system MyMusicStaff. We use the system for:

- Lesson timetabling & attendance
- Managing lesson resources & repertoire information
- Writing and sending lesson notes for each session
- Invoicing & billing

We strongly advise parents use the system weekly for:

- Logging practice sessions using the start/stop timer
- Adding notes for teachers
- Reviewing lesson notes, and access to repertoire and downloadable resources

You can access the system by logging into app.mymusicstaff.com. If you do not have an account set up, please email info@som.academy.

Learning Journey Overview

Our learning journey is designed to follow logical steps of progression depending on the difficulty level of the instrument.

We know pupils often are really keen to play instruments like guitar and drum kit at an early age, but we find that a foundation in piano skills (using the Dogs & Birds course) develops all-round musicality, which then feeds into the development of other instruments in future years.

We have chosen to focus on a contemporary-focused curriculum for two reasons - firstly because of the lower cost to purchase instruments and secondly, to build into the core instruments offered at LIPA Sixth Form & HE.

	Piano	Singing	Ukulele	Drum Kit	Bass Guitar	Guitar	Violin, Flute, Saxophone	After-School Clubs
Reception								
Year 1	1-to-1 (20 min)							Groups up to 20 (Junior Ensemble)
Year 2	1-to-1 (20 min)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)						Groups up to 20 (Junior Ensemble)
Year 3	1-to-1 (20 min)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)					Groups up to 20 (Junior Ensemble)
Year 4	1-to-1 (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)			Groups up to 20 (Senior Ensemble)
Year 5	1-to-1 (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 20 (Senior Ensemble)
Year 6	1-to-1 (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 20 (Senior Ensemble)
Year 7	1-to-1 (20 min or 30 mins)	1-to-1 (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 20 (High School Choir)
Year 8	1-to-1 (20 min or 30 mins)	1-to-1 (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 20 (High School Choir)
Year 9	1-to-1 (20 min or 30 mins)	1-to-1 (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 5 (30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Solo or duo (20 min or 30 mins)	Groups up to 20 (High School Choir)

Costs

Instrument Options	Format	Weekly Cost
Piano, Guitar, Bass, Drum Kit, Sax, Flute, Violin, Vocals	20 minute 1-to-1 or 30 minute 2-to-1	£12.00
Piano, Guitar, Bass, Drum Kit, Sax, Flute, Violin, Vocals	30 minute 1-to-1	£18.00
Singing, Ukulele	30 minute (groups up to 5)	£6.00
After-School Clubs	1 hour (groups up to 20)	£5.00

All lessons are scheduled during normal school hours, apart from our after-school ensembles as follows:

Music After-School Club (Yrs 1 – 3) – Thursday 3.20pm to 4.20pm

Music After-School Club (Yrs 4 – 6) – Tuesday 3.20pm to 4.20pm

High School Pop Choir (Yrs 7 – 9) – Wednesday 3pm to 4pm

Pupils in Y6 and above may opt to have 1-to-1 lessons after-school, between 3pm and 6pm, to avoid clashes with regular classroom timetabling.

Billing

Lessons are billed & payable half-termly, in advance. You will usually receive an invoice **seven days before lessons are due to re-commence**, payment for this invoice is due **on the Sunday before lessons resume**.

Our online system MyMusicStaff calculates the amount due based on a figure which is carried over from the previous billing period, and the amount of lessons scheduled until the end of the upcoming half-term. You can always check the status of your lessons by logging into your family account at app.mymusicstaff.com.

Payments can be made either by card or BACS. Cash is no longer accepted. Non-payment of invoice may result in lessons being suspended.

The school continues to invest in our pupils by covering costs for music lessons for pupil premium eligible children. The fund covers a maximum of two lessons up to a maximum weekly cost of £18. Any lessons on top of this allowance are payable at the usual rates.

Absence Policy

MyMusicStaff helps staff to manage absence and its associated billing implications.

We understand that there are occasions when pupils are not available for their lessons for a number of reasons - including illness, school timetabling changes or school trips. Similarly, our teachers may not be able to complete lessons due to illness.

We aim to be as fair as possible when it comes to our absence policy, but we ask parents to be mindful that for our staff, teaching is their livelihood and they shouldn't be penalised for circumstances beyond their control.

School staff are obliged to inform SoMi Academy of any timetabling changes by the Friday before the relevant teaching week, to allow us to make necessary adjustments to the timetable to accommodate these changes.

Similarly, we ask all parents to inform of us planned absence with as much notice as possible so that we don't waste time in trying to deliver a lesson to a pupil who isn't in school. You can do this by cancelling lessons on MyMusicStaff (MMS).

MMS has three main absence options as follows:

1. **Pupil absent (not billable)** - this means the lesson cost is credited back to your account, and deducted from your next invoice
2. **Pupil absent (billable - give make up credit)** - this means the lesson is billed as normal, and pupils will be given a 'make-up credit' which means the pupil is owed the lesson, to be scheduled for a later date
3. **Pupil absent (billable)** - this means the pupil is absent and the absence is billable

Our absence policy is as follows:

- For one-to-one lessons, pupil or teacher absence will **either** result in the lesson being **not billable**, or **billable with a make-up credit** given. This is down to the discretion of the teacher and depends on if they have the capacity to schedule the make-up lessons later in the half-term.
- Due to the nature of group lessons (choir, ukulele & singing), pupil absence is always **billable** if the lesson commences at it's scheduled time
- If the teacher is absent for the group lesson, attendance will be marked as **not billable** or **billable with a make-up credit** given
- If lessons are not able to take place due to timetable changes or room unavailability that hasn't been communicated, attendance will be **billable**

You can check the attendance status of each lesson using the calendar view on your MyMusicStaff account.

Cancellation Policy

Our billing period is half-termly, therefore cancellation of lessons must be given in writing **before** a new teaching half-term commences, by emailing info@somiacademy

Parents must pay for all lessons that have been delivered up to the point of cancellation.