



# 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 band sessions
- 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 band session
- Practise the homework objectives assigned and agreed with your teacher
- Have fun and come into sessions with an open mind

## 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@som.academy](mailto:info@som.academy) 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](http://app.mymusicstaff.com). If you do not have an account set up, please email [info@somi.academy](mailto:info@somi.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.

An overview of the curriculum journey is as follow. Further information can be found in the [SoMi Academy Outreach Overview](#) and the [SOME Curriculum Design](#) documents.

### Key

|  |                                                                         |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Year Group</b>                                                       |
|  | <b>Area Of Study</b>                                                    |
|  | <b>Ensemble/Transitional (Trialing Instruments in Ensemble Setting)</b> |
|  | <b>Elective (Instrument Choice) and Genre/Stylistic Studies</b>         |

| Year Group                                                                              | EYFS | Y1 | Y2      | Y3      | Y4               | Y5                                                          | Y6                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----|---------|---------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Area Of Study                                                                           |      |    | Modular | Modular | Modular Ensemble | Modular Instrument Finalisation and Genre/Stylistic Studies | Modular Advanced Ensemble Techniques and Stylistic Creation |
| Dogs & Birds (Book 1)                                                                   |      |    |         |         |                  |                                                             |                                                             |
| Dogs & Birds (Book 1 cont. & 2)                                                         |      |    |         |         |                  |                                                             |                                                             |
| Modular (Introduction to Percussion, Ukulele, Singing and Creation)                     |      |    |         |         |                  |                                                             |                                                             |
| Modular (Development of Percussion, Ukulele, Singing and Creation)                      |      |    |         |         |                  |                                                             |                                                             |
| Introduction/ to Ensemble Playing, Fundamentals, Creation - Rhythm and Harmony Focus    |      |    |         |         |                  |                                                             |                                                             |
| Instrument Finalisation, Stylistic Studies - Pop, Rock, Country, Stylistic Creation     |      |    |         |         |                  |                                                             |                                                             |
| Advanced Ensemble Techniques and Styles - Folk, Worlds Music, Blues, Stylistic Creation |      |    |         |         |                  |                                                             |                                                             |

## Costs

All lessons are scheduled during normal school hours, you can check the timetable of lessons on MyMusicStaff.

The cost for the ensemble sessions is a fixed rate of £35 per month, payable 10 months of the year (September to June). This covers a minimum of 32 sessions per academic year.

For sessions commencing part way through the year, the first billing month will usually be the first month where sessions are delivered. The minimum number of sessions in that academic year will be calculated pro rata with the amount of payments made.

Direct debit is our only available payment method. You will be sent a mandate via GoCardless once your child's sign up has been registered by our team. Confirmation of the mandate will enrol your child in the sessions.

## Billing

Our billing cycle is monthly. If a direct debit fails, we will correspond with you to resolve the issue. If the issue is not resolved, lessons will be cancelled.

Lessons can be cancelled at any time at your request, simply send an email to [info@somi.academy](mailto:info@somi.academy). Pupils will receive all lessons they have paid for in the calendar month.

## Absence Policy

Sessions will generally be on a fixed day of the week, and generally weekly.

Because of the nature of group sessions, absences can not be refunded, credited or otherwise redeemed against any other service.

If a pupil is absent they will continue to receive the online resources so independent practice can still happen outside of school.

Your child's school will inform us of any planned off-timetable events like school trips, and those sessions will be rearranged for another day or week.