

Westlake Boys High School Music Lessons – FAQ

How do I sign up?

Complete this email form - [click here](#) - or complete via the Westlake Boys webpage or email eha@westlake.school.nz Returning students must re-register each year.

How much do lessons cost?

A one-off annual administration fee of **\$150** applies for itinerant music lessons. This fee is added to your school account.

Are beginner lessons available?

Yes. Beginner lessons are offered for most instruments. Students are grouped based on ability and their involvement in any co-curricular groups.

When do lessons take place?

Lessons are held once a week during school hours (8:40am–3:15pm). The timetables are fixed with a day and time.

Will my son miss class for lessons?

Yes. Students will miss part of a curriculum class, but because Westlake Boys' has a rotating 6-day subject timetable, the disruption isn't concentrated — it is spread evenly across all subjects.

Can lessons occur before/after school or at breaks?

Sometimes. Before school can be negotiated with individual teachers but may cost more. Additionally, some timings may occur during interval or lunch due to staff hours and their need to get to other schools. These times are limited and depend on teacher availability.

How are students grouped for lessons?

Groups of 2–4 students are formed based on ability level (not year level). May also depend on their involvement in co-curricular groups.

How do lesson timetables work?

Each student/group is assigned a lesson time that is fixed to a day and time. Timetables are posted on the Music Department noticeboard. Individual Microsoft Teams chats are also created by Mr Hare to update changes to times, groups or other amendments.

What if my son is placed on a waiting list?

Waiting lists are reviewed at the end of each term. Spaces may open as students progress or discontinue lessons. We will place students into lessons as soon as suitable spaces become available.

Can my son hire an instrument from the school?

Yes. A limited number of string and wind instruments are available. Please touch base with Mr Hare or Mr Robinson to discuss. We do **not** hire guitars, bass guitars, or drum kits.

How much does instrument hire cost?

Instrument hire incurs a non-refundable annual fee (invoiced through your school account). Consumables (strings, reeds, valve oil, rosin) must be purchased separately. Instrument hire may be revoked if progress or attendance is not maintained.

Alternatively we recommend hiring through KBB Music. They do great hire and hire to buy options - www.kbbmusic.co.nz/rentals

When will my son start lessons?

Lessons begin in **Week 2 of Term 1**. Timetables will be posted on the noticeboard and he will be added to the Teams chat. Please ensure he checks Teams everyday.

Do we need to re-enrol each term?

No. Enrolment covers the full school year. In Term 4, you will be asked to confirm re-enrolment for the following year.

Are individual lessons available?

Not generally. Ministry funding is for group lessons. Individual lessons may be offered to advanced students and senior Option Music students.

Can my son take private lessons?

Yes. Your son's itinerant teacher can recommend suitable private teachers. Many of our top music option students are learning privately.

How does my son find out when his lessons are?

Timetables are:

- Posted on the Music Department noticeboard
- Posted in the Microsoft Teams chat

Students should check both for updates regularly.

Who should we contact if my son will miss his lesson?

Email both the lesson teacher and message Mr Hare.

How does my son excuse himself from class?

Students should:

1. Leave class 5 minutes before their lesson.
2. In their first week of lessons students get a green card from their music teacher with lesson time.
3. After their lesson they visit the Student Office to confirm attendance.

Attendance is monitored.

Can my son learn two instruments?

Possibly, depending on availability and workload. We recommend considering his overall commitments.