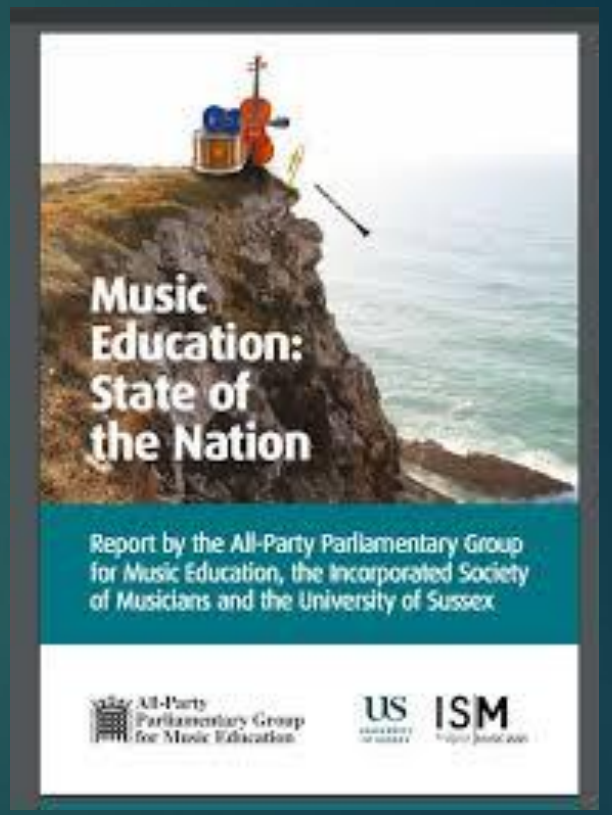
How to support your child's musical development

CANNON LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

MR KIRWAN

Thank you!

- "…research has cited the 'lottery' nature of music education: primary school children's access to sustained and high-quality music education are governed by chance. This is the result of a combination of lack of teacher confidence, cuts to funding which have forced some schools to no longer employ specialist music teachers and an unequal focus on core subjects, at the expense of the wider curriculum." Music Education: State of the Nation



Areas to consider

Practice

How often?

When?

Why?

Exams

Value

Requirements

What we can do

How we support instrumental music

Resources

Practice



It's too hard



I don't know what to do



It's boring

It's hard!
Focus on the doing, not the outcome

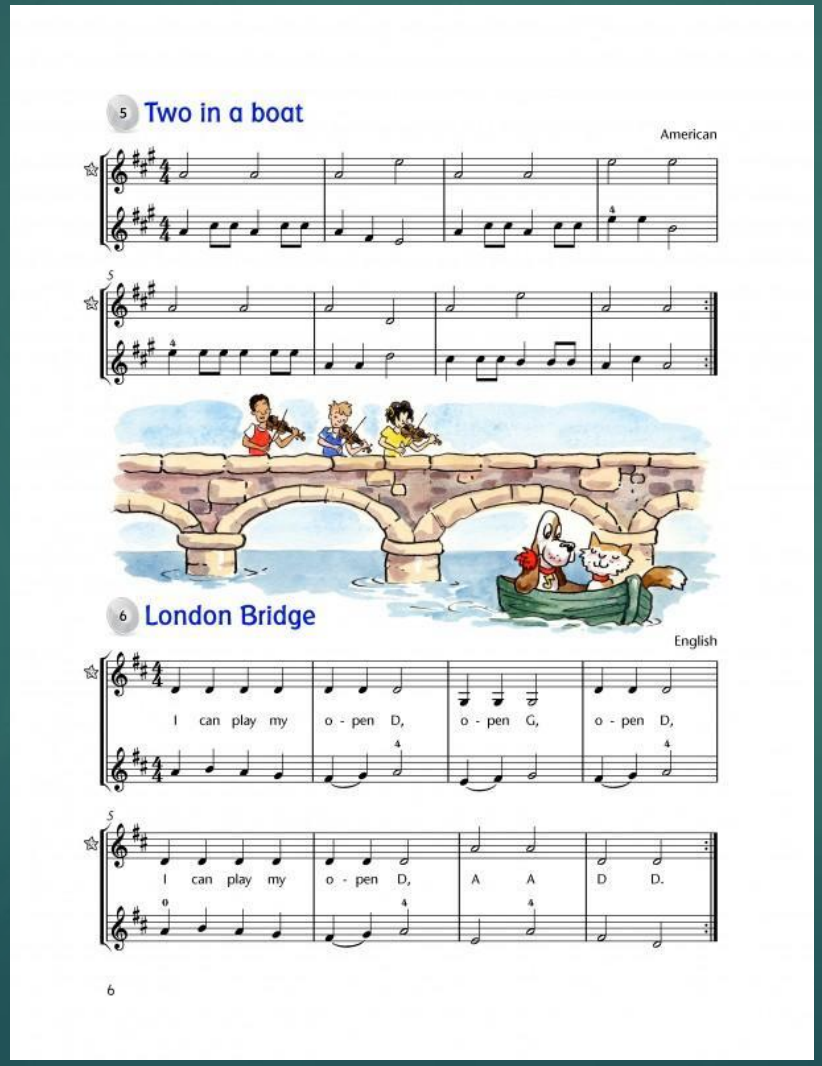


Let them play something they can already play well first!

Even if it's really easy – it's good to play for fun

Give them a purpose!

Explain why it's important and how to do it!



5 Two in a boat

American

6 London Bridge

English

I can play my o - pen D, o - pen G, o - pen D,

I can play my o - pen D, A A D D.

6

Supervised
Vs.
Un-supervised

I’m too busy

Mornings

10 -15 minutes before walking to school

After school

Come in, get your instrument, what did you do today?

How long

Initially 10 – 15 minutes

Short, focused sessions

Daily where possible, 3 - 4 times a week

Don’t do just an hour on a Sunday

Examinations

ABRSM

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON



UCAS

The boards

How they work

Their value and limitations

Exam Boards

Harrow Music Service use Trinity Guildhall



How they work

Grades 1 – 8, followed by a diploma

Can be taken termly –normally in the summer

Can enter at any Grade level and skip Grades

To take ABRSM Grade 6 and above you must obtain Grade 5 music theory

Three pieces/scales/arpeggios/musical knowledge/aural



Their value

Grades 6 – 8 count towards UCAS points

Can be a good indicator of current level of ability

Can be a motivating factor for some children

Their limitations

Expensive

Progress vs. Certificate

Not adopted around the world because:

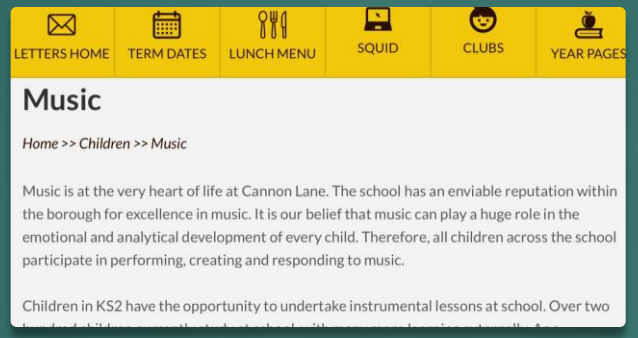
- Very limited repertoire
- Studying to the test narrows development



What we can do

HMS
HARROW
MUSIC SERVICE

Our Visiting Instrumental Colleagues



Website



What we offer

Harrow Music Service



Provide all instrumental tuition in school

Run a wide range of music festivals annually

Lead several ensembles in school including:

- Year 3 and 4 String Orchestra
- Year 5 and 6 String Orchestra
- Wind Band
- Steel Pans Band

School Website

Resource for parents

Timetables

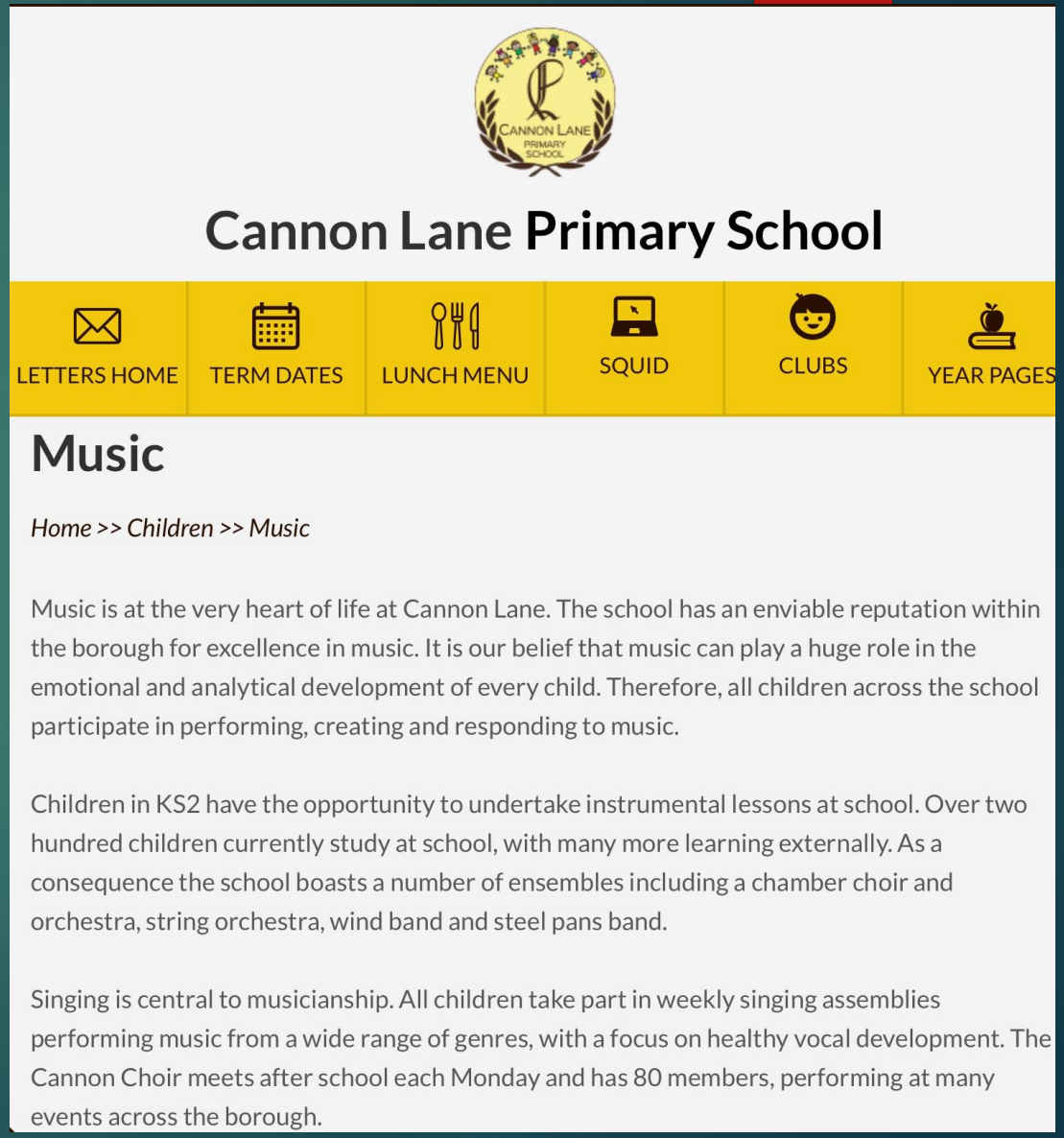
Information on Music Tuition in school and externally

Advice about buying and hiring and instrument

List of respected instrument repairers

Music Letters

Office contact: Mrs Nugent



What we offer

Over 240 children learning instruments in school

Children guaranteed 33 lessons over the academic year

Regular opportunities to play and perform:

- In assembly
- At Festivals
- Summer Concerts
- In curriculum music lessons – play through creativity

Wide range of additional ensembles:

- Ukulele Band
- Rock Band
- Composers Club
- Year 6 Orchestra
- Choir

Weekly “drop in” sessions

Designated Music Teacher



I want to quit

- Most musicians have thought of stopping
- Many adults wished they hadn't given up
- Why?
- What can we do to help?
- Nearly always a solvable problem



Live Music

Family friendly concert series:

https://wigmore-hall.org.uk/wigmore-series/family-events

https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/tag/lso-family-concerts



Any Questions?