



The Wandsworth Music Academy

A Centre for Musical Excellence in South-West London

Information for parents and pupils



Wandsworth Music

Burntwood School

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www.wandsworthmusic.co.uk

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**ARTS COUNCIL
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Introduction

The [Wandsworth Music Academy](#), a centre of musical excellence in South West London, provides high quality music tuition and progression routes for more than 500 children and young people aged 5-21.

Many of our past students have gained entrance to top conservatoires and universities such as; [Guildhall School of Music](#), [Royal Northern College of Music](#), [Trinity College of Music](#) and [Leeds College of Music](#).

From the very beginning of instrumental and vocal learning young people are supported to play and sing in choirs, orchestras and bands through our bespoke ensemble development programme encompassing classical, popular, jazz and world music genres.

The Music Academy provides the very highest standard of musical progression and is home to Wandsworth's leading orchestras, bands and choirs including; 3 Symphony Orchestras, 2 Jazz Orchestras, Contemporary Pop and Rock Bands, numerous choirs, Steel Pans and Djembe Drumming.

Wandsworth Music Academy ensembles regularly perform at a variety of prestigious events and venues, including the [Royal Festival Hall](#), [Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships](#), [London Jazz Festival](#), [Royal Albert Hall](#), [Hideaway Jazz Club](#) and the annual foreign orchestral tour.

The Music Academy runs on Saturdays, 8am – 2pm and Wednesdays, 4.30pm – 9.30pm at, and in partnership with [Burntwood School](#).

Saturday Academy

The **Wandsworth Music Academy (Saturdays)** provides high quality musical progression routes for over 350 children and young people aged 5-18, covering a wide range of musical genres, instrumental and vocal studies across three distinct phases:

Key Stage 1 (5-7 years old)

Sound Start sessions run for 30 minutes and include singing, rhythm games, dance, recorder and percussion to develop children's core musical skills and foster a lifelong enjoyment of music. In addition, Year 2 children also participate in the Music Academy Junior Choir.

Key Stage 2 (7-11 years old)

Children enjoy a full morning of music making including learning musical instruments in small groups, ensemble (orchestra or band), theory and composition, choir, steel pans and djembe drumming.

Secondary (11-18 years old)

Secondary students may apply for membership of the borough's leading orchestras and ensembles and are offered the option of a 1-1 instrumental lesson. Additional ensembles and theory lessons are also available.

What instruments do we offer?

Instrument availability will vary year on year. Children in the Junior Academy are currently learning the following instruments:

Oboe, Flute, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Guitar, Piano, Drum Kit and Percussion.

All children will participate in a suitable Music Academy orchestra, Pop Band or Jazz ensemble. For some great guides on all the different orchestral instruments, have a look at this YouTube video playlist.

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqR22EoucCyccs5J639SCefaM7mD9dMSz>

The oboe, bassoon, viola & double bass are all endangered instruments that not many children have the opportunity to play. They are all crucial instruments to have in the orchestra and to this end there are more playing opportunities available to players of endangered instruments; they are greatly sought after!

Wednesday Academy

On Wednesdays we offer a wide variety of 1-1 instrumental and vocal lessons, along with a range of choirs and instrumental ensembles. Subject to availability, tuition taught on Wednesdays may include;

Guitar
Drums
Piano
Singing
Violin, Viola, Cello
Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn
Flute, Saxophone, Clarinet

Ensemble Provision at Wandsworth Music Academy

The structured ensemble learning programme nurtures children and young people's musicianship towards the borough's flagship ensembles and prestigious performance opportunities. The Academy aims to provide the very highest standard of musical progression.

The following ensembles are available at **the Saturday Academy**;

Wandsworth Training Orchestra (Strings, Brass, Wind): For new learners to pre G1.
Wandsworth Junior Orchestra: Approx. Grade 1-3
Wandsworth Concert Orchestra: Grade 3-6 (Audition may be required)
Wandsworth Philharmonic Orchestra (Secondary Age Only): Entry by audition. Grade 5/6+
Wandsworth Jazz Orchestra Too!: Approx. Grade 2-5
Wandsworth Jazz Orchestra: (Secondary Age Only): Entry by audition approx. Grade 6+
Junior Pop Band: Pre grade 1 – 3 level
Pop & Rock Bands: (Secondary age only): Entry by audition (Guitar/bass/drums/vocal/keys)
Steel Pan Jam!: (Secondary age only)
Saxophone Ensemble: Entry by audition

The following ensembles are available at **the Wednesday Academy**;

Wandsworth Youth Choir: (Y6+)
Wandsworth Performance Troupe Senior (Age 11+): Musical Theatre Group
Wandsworth Performance Troupe Junior (Y3-6): Musical Theatre Group
Wandsworth Performance Troupe Tots (R-Y2): Musical Theatre Group
Concert Band: Grade 1-3
String Thing: Grade 1-3
Wind, Brass & String Chamber music groups: Grade 4/5+ (Secondary age only)

Ensemble expectations

Places in Wandsworth Music Academy ensembles are allocated according to standard, availability, commitment, and (for Senior Ensembles) by invitation or audition/ observation. In some cases, and at our sole discretion, it may not be necessary to hold an audition if we can make an accurate and informed appraisal of your abilities without having to hear you play, either from our prior knowledge of your playing or from your application form.

For senior ensembles, the audition and application process will guide us in allocating players to the orchestra or ensemble most appropriate to their standard. Audition repertoire is set by the panel and any decision is final.

Attendance at rehearsals is vital in order to ensure that ensembles develop and play together properly. They rely on teamwork and commitment from every single member.

All members of Music Academy ensembles are expected to:

- give their full commitment and have **regular** and **punctual attendance** at **all** rehearsals, courses and performances
- be fully prepared for rehearsals by:
 - downloading all parts for their instrument / voice
 - learning the parts thoroughly **before** the rehearsals
 - taking parts to their lessons and to go through with their teacher
- arrive at rehearsals and performances in good time to ensure you are seated and ready to start at the rehearsal time (this means arriving at least 15mins before the start time)
- bring a pencil and rubber to rehearsals
- follow rehearsal etiquette by turning off mobile phones and paying full attention to the conductor
- assist in the setup and pack down of rehearsals (including stacking own chair and stand, cleaning any rubbish away and ensuring all instruments are returned to storage as appropriate)

Full attendance at **all** rehearsals and events is expected unless agreed in advance and confirmed in writing by the Head of the Music or ensemble director. Failure to attend rehearsals without permission may necessitate musicians not being able to perform at concerts and result in your place in the ensemble being withdrawn or offered to another musician.

Please note that for senior ensembles members who do not demonstrate the required level of commitment and/or standard of playing may be required to re-audition.

For more information about ensembles please visit the [webpage](#)

Saturday Academy - More detailed information

Key Stage 1 (5-7 years old)

These 30 minute sessions include singing games, rhythm activities, dance and recorder. Children will also have opportunities to explore a variety of percussion instruments and play the recorder. The benefits for your child:

- Develop the core musical skills they need to make the most of learning a musical instrument as they get older
- Foster a love of group music making and all the personal and social benefits that brings
- Enjoy singing, playing and moving to music whilst also developing their listening, concentration, coordination and language skills – amongst others!
- An introduction to Saturday music classes that feed into the full morning of instrumental and ensemble tuition from year 3 to 13.
- All children in Year 2 take part in the Junior choir where they are taught to sing in multiple parts and read and follow music.

Junior Academy – KS2 Full morning music centre (7-11 years old)

For pupils in school years 3 - 6 we offer a full morning of music-making which runs from c.9:30am - 1:30pm. The morning comprises of multiple musical sessions with a break for the children to socialise with others from the academy and have a snack (they bring this with them).

Group instrumental lessons

Instrumental lessons are taught in small groups that allow students to play together with their peers. These are taught by specialist instrumental teachers.

1-1 instrumental lessons

A limited number of 1-1 instrumental lessons are available for Junior Academy pupils.

Choir

Junior Academy children participate in choir where they are taught to sing in multiple parts and read and follow music.

Steel Pans and Djembe Drumming

Children have the opportunity to learn the djembe drums and steel pans and perform in ensembles. Both these groups help to develop aural skills as songs are learnt without notation.

General Music Session

These may include:

Composition: The opportunity to devise and notate your own musical creations.

Theory: A session that develops the understanding of written music and music theory.

Ensemble

All Junior Academy students participate in one of the following ensembles:

Beginner Strings/ Wind/ Brass/ Training Orchestra: Beginner instrumentalists from the same family of instruments experience playing with each other and working as a team for the first time.

Junior Orchestra & Concert Orchestra: Children progress into these Orchestras when they reach the required standard. Places in the orchestras are allocated subject to standards, age, availability of spaces and commitment.

Piano, Drums, Guitar: Students work in ensembles that include percussion ensemble and pop band.

Senior Academy Provision (11-18 years old)

Secondary aged pupils may apply for membership of the borough's leading orchestras and ensembles.

Secondary instrumentalists also have the option of an individual 30 minute (or 1 hour) lesson. Ensemble membership is compulsory for **all students** receiving instrumental lessons at the Music Academy. Students are allocated a place in an appropriate ensemble (according to ability, availability of spaces and/ or audition). For orchestral instrument players this is either the Wandsworth Junior/Concert Orchestra or Wandsworth Philharmonic Orchestra (subject to audition). Guitarists and pianists participate in Pop Band and/or Jazz Orchestra (subject to audition).

Concerts

All music academy pupils have the opportunity to participate in regular concerts and events. In addition to external events the Music Academy also holds large scale concerts at Christmas and at the end of the summer term. There are also frequent smaller recital style concerts.

General information

Exams

We see exams as a good way of inspiring further study and celebrating success. They are also useful in helping children to become well-rounded musicians. However, we do not agree with the practice of 'teaching to the exam' where a child automatically moves on to study the next grade upon completion of the previous one.

To be entered for an exam, we must first be confident that the pupil is capable of attaining a good merit or distinction - this is to limit situations where the entire term preceding the exam is given over to cramming just to scrape a pass mark, when time can be better spent on a more rounded musical experience.

Students must demonstrate suitable commitment and practise – i.e. purchasing/ downloading music to practice, regular attendance, good timekeeping, following clear weekly instructions in green book.

All students must have purchased original copies of the music and piano accompaniment where appropriate.

Music tutors will put forward pupils who are ready to be entered for exams at the end of each term preceding the term in which the exam is to be taken. This ensures we have enough time to contact parents for permission and to collect payment. It also ensures that pupils will have enough time to be suitably well prepared.

By default we use **ABRSM** grades for orchestral instruments and piano as they cover supporting areas of music such as scales, aural & sight reading. For guitar we use Rockschool exams.

For more information on ABRSM exams please follow this link

<http://gb.abrsm.org/en/exam-support/your-guide-to-abrsm-exams/>

For more information on Rockschool guitar exams please follow this link

<http://www.rockschool.co.uk/qualifications/music/graded-music-exams/guitar/>

Our tutors

We have an outstanding team of professional music tutors and musicians. Many of our tutors work with top professional orchestras, bands and in West End Theatres. All tutors have been auditioned and interviewed by Wandsworth Music.

The Wandsworth Music Academy Code

Quite simply, we aim to inspire our children with a lifelong love and enjoyment of music. We would like all our musicians to support this goal and contribute to a safe and caring learning environment by committing to a few simple principles:

- **Enjoy** your music making! Playing a musical instrument and singing can be tremendously rewarding experiences and can lead to many wonderful experiences, memories and friendships.
- **Respect** your fellow musicians and support each other in your musical journeys. Please also take good care of our wonderful home and resources by keeping it clean and tidy, putting litter in bins and helping take care of instruments, music stands and other equipment. Take care of music by making markings only in pencil (good musicians are never without a pencil so they can mark changes in their music!).
- **Prepare** for your lessons and rehearsals. The very best musicians make performing sound easy- we can all emulate them by being prepared and practising the music! Family support plays a huge part in musical progress and the great thing is you don't have to be musical to help! Encouragement, little reminders to practice and supporting at concerts make a huge difference! Please also read and write in the practice books to communicate with your child's instrument teacher.
- **Perform** and participate in concerts and events. There are regular opportunities to perform at the Academy and the more advanced ensembles also get to play at events outside of the Academy. In recent years these have included prestigious venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Finals and concert tours to Holland, France, Germany, Austria and Spain.
- **Persevere** and learn the art of patient practice! The learning curve for any skill is rarely straight and we all find challenges along the way. When it gets tough persevere, keep a positive focus and move on to the next challenge!

Wandsworth Music Academy - Code of conduct and terms and conditions

Attendance

Places at the Music Academy are in high demand. In order to ensure that pupils progress and make the best use of their time we expect **regular and punctual attendance** every week.

Please inform Wandsworth Music of any known absences in advance. If this is a last minute absence due to illness please use the emergency mobile number (contact numbers at the end of this document).

Please note that in cases of continued poor attendance or regular absence we reserve the right to terminate your child's place at the Academy.

Conduct

Wandsworth Music recognises and encourages talent and wishes to ensure that all musicians feel safe and supported in their activities.

WM will not tolerate any form of intimidation, bullying or discrimination. Discrimination or vilification on the ground of anyone's race, colour, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, language or disability will not be tolerated.

We expect excellent behaviour at all times during Wandsworth Music activity. Sanctions will be used sparingly but in extreme circumstances poor behaviour may lead to the suspension or dismissal of a student. Serious misconduct will result in permanent exclusion from all Wandsworth Music activities.

Pupils and parents are under the direction of Wandsworth Music staff and must remain in the allocated areas at all times. Parents are not allowed to enter the main teaching buildings unless supervised by a member of the WM team.

If you have any concerns about pupil, parent or staff conduct then please contact Jenny Long in the first instance.

Ensemble rehearsals and concerts

Regular attendance at rehearsals is vital in order to ensure that ensembles develop and play together properly. All ensembles rely on teamwork and commitment from each and every single member.

All members of Music Academy ensembles are expected to:

- give their full commitment and have **regular** and **punctual attendance** at **all** rehearsals, courses and performances
- be prepared for rehearsals by:
 - downloading all relevant parts for their instrument / voice;
 - learning the parts thoroughly **before** the rehearsals;
 - taking parts to their lessons and to go through with their teacher;
- arrive at rehearsals and performances in good time to ensure you are seated, tuned and ready to start at the rehearsal time (this means arriving **at least 15mins** before the start time);
- bring a pencil and rubber to rehearsals;
- follow rehearsal etiquette by turning off mobile phones and paying full attention to the conductor;
- assist in the setup and pack down of rehearsals (including stacking own chair and stand, cleaning any rubbish away and ensuring all instruments are returned to storage as appropriate);

Full attendance at **all** rehearsals and events is expected unless agreed in advance and confirmed in writing by the Head of the Music or ensemble director. Failure to attend rehearsals without permission may necessitate musicians not being able to perform at concerts and result in your place in the ensemble being withdrawn or offered to another musician.

Please note that for senior ensembles members who do not demonstrate the required level of commitment and/or standard of playing may be required to re-audition.

Registration

All pupils must register on arrival; On Saturdays, Junior Academy pupils should register with the Administrator. Senior Academy students should self-register at the reception desk.

On Wednesdays all pupils should register with the administrator in block 8 of the performing arts building.

Collection of Pupils

For Junior Academy Pupils (Y1-6) please ensure you come into the school to collect your child as we will not allow them to leave otherwise. Please ensure that you are on time to collect your child at the end of the session. If you wish your child to go home unaccompanied on a regular basis, you must provide this instruction in writing before we will be able to agree it.

It is assumed that all Senior Academy (Y7-13) pupils can travel to and from the academy independently and will leave the site once their scheduled lessons are finished.

Only Junior Academy students for whom Wandsworth Music have received parental permission will be allowed to leave unaccompanied.

Late arrivals

Please ensure that arrival is registered even if late: it is essential that we are aware of the number of people actually present in the building in case of any emergency.

Pupils who are persistently late may be excluded from the Music Academy.

Practice

Please check and follow tutor instructions in the green practice books every week. Learning a musical instrument requires dedication and a commitment to regular and focused practice. To make musical progress, nothing is as important as the quality and the quantity of practice time!

We expect all pupils at the Music Academy to practice regularly. As a guide we recommend the **minimum** daily practice times:

| | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Beginners: | 10-15mins daily |
| Grade 1-3 | 20-25mins daily |
| Grade 4+ | At least 30mins daily |

Term dates

These will be supplied at the beginning of each term. Generally the academy runs for 30 sessions per year, usually 10 a term but this can vary. The latest term dates can be viewed [here](#)

Food and drink

Please remember that Burntwood School has a strict no eating and drinking policy in all classrooms. Food and drink may only be consumed in agreed areas. Please ensure that all litter is placed in outside bins. Please ensure the snacks you provide are nut free as we have children with severe nut allergies attending the Academy and no glass bottles. Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted during any Wandsworth Music activity.

Toilets

Toilets for parental use are located by the main reception desk at Burntwood. All other toilets are for the use of children only. Please ensure that toilets are left as you would expect to find them.

Parent enquiries

We politely request that administrative matters are raised **during the week by email or phone.**

Due to child safeguarding once your child is registered please do not accompany them around the site or to lessons. Under no circumstances are parents allowed to access any parts of the building, unless agreed by Wandsworth Music.

Car Parking

There is free on street car parking available in surrounding roads. Please show consideration for our neighbours when parking and please **do not park on the yellow zig zag lines** outside the school as this causes significant danger for children crossing the road.

Where possible we would encourage pupils to travel on foot, bike or by public transport.

Tutors

The same tutors will be provided as consistently as possible, however the Academy reserves the right to vary activities when absences occur. Our standard action is to replace the absent tutor with a suitable deputy, but we cannot guarantee this as some absences are inevitably at very short notice.

Changes of lesson

It is expected that once a place is accepted, the pupil will continue to learn the chosen instrument unless there is a specific reason to change. Where there is a strong reason for the change of study instrument and a vacancy is available, we may be willing to consider this on an individual basis.

Instrument care

Instruments are available to hire. Hire charges and terms are available from the music office. Loaned instruments should be cared for and **insured** against loss and damage by the borrowers. We reserve the right to request payment for any necessary repairs and or loss. Repairs must always be arranged or agreed through the Music Academy.

If your child ends tuition with us, the instrument must be returned to the Music Office within 2 weeks of the tuition ending.

Strings, reeds and accessories

Pupils are required to purchase their own supply of strings / reeds/ oil direct from a music supplier. Spares should be kept in the instrument case. We are happy to recommend suppliers - Please ask the administrator for more information.

Mobile phones and valuables

These should not be brought into the Music Academy as we cannot be held responsible for their safekeeping. All items including mobile phones are brought at students' own risk. Mobile phones should be kept away and powered off during teaching sessions at the music academy.

Emergencies

In cases of serious adverse weather conditions or unforeseen safety problems at the Academy, a session may be cancelled without notice. Thus it is important that younger pupils are always delivered to the Academy and not "dropped off" at the door/end of the road, etc. It is also important that children are not left before the Academy is open, for the same reason

Emergencies arising for parents/carers

Please ensure that a message is sent as soon as possible if special and serious difficulties arise. Telephone numbers are given below.

Medical Information

We need to know of conditions that could arise requiring action during sessions. If a student is an asthma sufferer, for example, we need to be aware of this, and to know whether an inhaler is carried. Likewise if they carry an epipen, please let us know.

Additional needs

Please let us know if your child has any additional needs or requires additional support.

Personal Information

Please don't forget to inform us if you change your address, telephone contact number[s] or arrangements for collection of your child at the ends of sessions.

Fees

Fees are payable **before** the start of a new term and must be paid online via the payment portal.

The list of fees can be found [here](#)

Full payment terms and conditions can be found [here](#)

Where payment has not been made in advance, we are obliged to discontinue service until full payment has been received. Continued non-payment of fees may result in your child's place at the Academy being withdrawn.

If you are experiencing any financial difficulty, please contact the Music Service to discuss alternative arrangements. All information will be dealt in the strictest confidence.

Fees will not be refundable for any absence of short term illness. In cases of long term health problems, please contact us as soon as possible.

Financial Support

Assistance with fees may be available on application to those on restricted incomes living in Wandsworth or attending a Wandsworth School, subject to conditions. The criteria is similar to those for Free School Meals.

Remission is also available where more than one child in the same family attends.

Leaving the Academy

We understand that sometimes it may be necessary to withdraw a child - Where this is the case, we require at **least 5 lesson's written notice**. We are obliged to charge if appropriate notice is not given.

Where and when

Wandsworth Music Academy
Burntwood Academy
Burntwood Lane
SW17 0AQ

Opening times

8am to 2pm, Saturdays during term times
4.30pm-9.30pm, Wednesdays during term times

WMA contacts

For more information please contact Wandsworth Music by email info@wandsworthmusic.co.uk

Wednesdays: 07929 018729 (Chris Spreadbury)

Saturdays: 07767 670611 (Jenny Long - general enquiries) or **07966 426345** (John Kilshaw – ensembles)