

## Working with a conductor

One of the challenges of being in a band is working as a team. The person who coordinates the music is the conductor. The principle role of conductor is to set and maintain the tempo (speed) of the music and to keep all of the musicians in time with one another during a performance.

The conductor will also use other gestures to remind musicians of key events happening in the music. You will need to learn to keep an eye on the conductor to ensure everybody is working together properly!



## Performing

As a band, we will, on occasion, perform small concerts for fellow pupils and parents. This is your opportunity to show off your talent, share the music with others – and gain the hard earned praise you deserve!

We will try to select an interesting mix of music that the audience and performers enjoy. Some children do get nervous about performing – but they feel fantastic once the concert starts and afterwards when parents and school staff are genuinely very proud of your commitment.

## At home....

In order to get the music up to the best possible standard it is very important that you practice your band music at home. A band is a team, and every member must practice if we are to get a good overall sound. Therefore, you should aim to know your part well. Interestingly, the better you know your part, the more enjoyable it is to play along with others. Practicing a little and often is much better than cramming the night before the rehearsals or concerts. Try to do some work on your band music at home. You could also get together with other members of the band after school and have a jamming session!

It's helpful to take your music to your instrumental teacher and ask them to help you with the difficult parts. Also, they can look at the music

If you feel a little lost with any of the music, you might like to ask your instrumental teacher to help. They can also listen to you playing your part and check that you have learnt it correctly.

## Next....

If you enjoy making music then there are other local groups you can join. Ask Mrs Malone if you are interested.

Have a look at:

<http://groupspaces.com/bayoc>



St Mary's

## **Junior Band information**



**Learning to play a musical instrument takes a lot of self discipline, especially when you've just started. You have received this booklet because you are a member or you are now ready to be a member of your school band. That is a great achievement!**

**Being a part of the band will help to make you an even better musician as it'll give you a chance to practice what you learn during your music lessons in a fun environment.**

**You now belong to a great school team!**

**See you Friday lunchtime**

## Introduction: You are special!

Practising a musical instrument a little bit each day can sometimes seem like a lot of hard work. It can seem to take so long to make progress and many of you will probably be able to think of a thousand things that you would rather be doing!

But there is good news because we have learnt that if you stick at it, you will eventually find reading and playing music as natural as reading a book. Most people in this country learn to read English confidently. But how many people do you know who can read music well? In fact, most people cannot read music at all.

During your time in the band, you will naturally develop your musical skills. You will become a confident music reader – which will always make you a bit special! You will gradually discover how to play the music that you enjoy effortlessly and you will even pick up skills that will help you to enjoy listening to music more.

Many people who start to play a musical instrument give up before they have experienced the fun that music can bring. I hope that you will become one of those exceptional people who do not give up.

Be prepared to make lots of mistakes along the way. Remember it's about having fun and Good Luck!



## What will you get out of the band?

As a member of the band you are a valued member of a school team. You will discover how important a part you play in creating music with others. If you play an orchestral instrument, this is also your way into the school orchestra or it may be an opportunity for you to play your other instrument if you play two.

The band provides a fun way to make use of those skills you work so hard to achieve during individual practice. In an orchestra or band, you get swept along with the music (the band provides an excellent forum to learn to keep going no matter what!). It's a fun process which will help to develop your confidence .



## The music

The music will often have a backing track and will contain mostly notes and rhythms you already know. Sometimes the music will link to the seasons but other times it will be just for fun.

If your part is too easy or hard, please let Mrs Malone know or ask your teacher/parent to tell her.

## Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held in the music room every Friday at lunchtime. Please get an early lunch pass and come straight to band after lunch. There will be time for a break after band.

Everyone will have their own set of music in a folder. Music folders stay in school but every time we get new music you will be given a copy to take home. You might want to have a special folder at home in which to keep this music. At the end of the rehearsal it is your responsibility to put your instrument in its case and put your chair, music and music stand away.

## Three simple rules for rehearsals

### **1. Prompt start**

### **2. Remember your instrument and pencil**

It may seem obvious to state that you need to remember your instrument, but some people do forget! A pencil is very useful for marking helpful hints onto the music. Keep one in your case.

**3. No chatting** - particularly whilst we're working on other parts. Sometimes, your conductor will need to spend time on a particular section of the band. For example, we may need to work with violin players. In the mean time, there is always some "in your head" practice you can be doing. Just following along with the music is a valuable exercise. Talking or making noises during practice is very disturbing to the rest of the band, so you will have to learn to be quiet and patient during these times.