



Bernards Heath Junior School

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Head Teacher: Mr Darren Armoogum BSc PGCE

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DA/JM

Dear Parents/Carers,

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION – SEPTEMBER 2025 - JULY 2026

Over the past years, Bernards Heath Junior School has developed a wide range of peripatetic instrumental tuition. As a junior school highly respected for music in Hertfordshire, it is important to us that the value of this tradition is upheld and enjoyed by the maximum number of children possible.

There is much research indicating that children who learn to play an instrument also do better in other curriculum areas. Music can be a lifelong interest, and fostering musical appreciation at a young age can provide a skill for adulthood.

Group, paired or individual lessons?

Evidence from Ofsted and advice from Hertfordshire Music Service has suggested that the achievement and attainment of pupils having shared and group tuition is as good as, if not better than, individual lessons. However, shared lessons are not available in every instrument and are dependent on other children of the same level wanting to share as well.

What about instruments?

Some specialist instruments can be hired or purchased locally. Pupils having lessons in Hertfordshire can take advantage of the Low Cost Instrument Purchase Scheme, please visit [here](#)

Who are the teachers?

Our visiting teachers are all employed by Hertfordshire Music Service, the largest and most successful Music Service in the country and the winner of national awards. They are all suitably qualified, attend regular In-Service Training sessions and undergo continuous performance management. They will provide a written progress report in the summer term and are happy to talk to you in person should you wish to do so.

What musical opportunities are offered?

The school orchestra perform in school. As well as performing in school, the orchestra are regularly invited to different school and external events and receive invitations to full day workshop sessions at St. Albans Music School, where they can also attend regular bands, orchestras and ensembles.

Who can learn?

All children are given the opportunity to learn **one** instrument in **curriculum time**. By limiting the lessons in this way, we are able to offer more children the chance to have instrumental tuition. Currently a high proportion of Bernards Heath children receive tuition in school, well above the national average.

How to book lessons?

For lessons in school, please enrol directly with Herts Music Service [here](#) . HMS arrange lessons and invoice parents directly.

If your child's school do not offer the instrument you want, it is still worth asking as if there is sufficient interest and the school has the facilities, it may be possible for us to arrange lessons for them.

For tuition at your local Music Centre, [Find My Local Centre](#) will help you find out what instruments are on offer at each centre. Simply enrol online [here](#) and select 'music centre' as the venue. If there are no vacancies, you will be put on a waiting list.

How much do lessons cost?

The fees for 2025/26 HMS lessons are detailed below. Some schools offer different lesson types and durations which are detailed within the registration process.

HMS bills for 11 lessons per term.

Lesson Type	Duration	Fee per Lesson	Fee per Term
Individual	20 minutes	£17.32	£190.52
	30 minutes	£25.98	£285.78
Shared	30 minutes	£12.99	£142.89
Small Group	30 minutes	£8.66	£95.26
Lesson Type available at school, but not available at HMS music centres			
Individual	15 minutes	£12.99	£142.89
Shared	20 minutes	£8.66	£95.26

HMS Bursary Scheme

The HMS Bursary Scheme is designed to provide bursaries for instrumental music lessons/groups to eligible students in Hertfordshire schools who learn with a HMS music teacher. For full details and to see what assistance you could receive, please click [here](#). or to apply click [here](#).

Currently Herts Music Service can provide teachers at Bernards Heath Junior School for the following instruments:

Piano, Guitar, Violin, Brass, Clarinet, Flute, Saxophone, Cello,

Yours sincerely,

DArmoogum

Darren Armoogum
(Headteacher)