

**Remember this is a partnership between the LMS and the school – both parties have the responsibility to work together to ensure its success. As schools have agreed that Classteachers and TA's should be actively participating – that means leading parts of the session, and learning an instrument with the pupils. Contact LMS if there are no spare instruments – we may be able to supply.** Some ideas for successful lessons for you to consider.

Rules to include:

1. "Only play your instruments when you are asked to". No individual practice in the lesson. "If you play, its taken away"
2. All must participate in the singing and musicianship activities, then you will be able to play your instruments
3. The same rules as in the classroom apply: e.g. Only one person talks at a time, put your hand up if you need something. Rules are normally placed on a classroom wall.

*Inappropriate actions have an immediate consequence once the rules are spelt out.*

Se-up phase. 10min

- Establish a routine – this is part of the learning process
- Have a group of selected pupils set up the chairs, stands, and percussion. Plenty of room between rows – trombones! and to allow teachers to walk around.
- Pupils bring their instruments in, in their cases, place around the sides of the room
- Unpack and assemble thier instruments without playing and take their seats.
- Teach them a safe rest position which doesn't tempt them to play
- Give a signal to allow them to play for a few seconds to check everything's working.
- Give a non-verbal signal to stop

Warm-up phase – 10-15 min Should include:

- Singing and actions/games
- Breathing and posture
- Rhythm work using voices then instruments
- Pitch work on solfa then e.g. call and echo on instruments
- This should be preparatory for work which is to come

Improve familiar material 1-3 pieces, 1 song 15-20 min

- Improve pieces and songs which have been started previously
- Suggestions for improvement from teachers and pupils, repeat the piece
- Sometimes use a backing track, sometimes a percussion groove.
- Allow sections to play, others to listen
- Have teachers perform the song or piece
- When not playing, instruments in a safe place on the floor.
- Pupils should be holding their instruments correctly and sitting correctly

Learn new pieces or skills – eg a new note, new concept. 15-20min

- Opportunity for a breakout session of needed
- When learning a new piece, listen-sing-mime-play.
- Remember VKA learning styles
- pupils or sections who need extra help should be taken out for a few minutes individual work so as not to disrupt the flow of the lesson

Plenary Session – 5 min

- Recap issues discussed in the lesson and set them a goal for the week.
- Finish with a piece of their choice for the enjoyment of playing or singing.
- Allow 5 min to pack away:
  - Instruments back in their cases first, then music and stands, then chairs
  - Then line up quietly to leave.

If pupils are unco-operative, a written exercise can be done instead. There is a word search in the book and the classteachers will have suggestions.

*Almost all the pupils should be actively engaged almost all the time, otherwise it's not a good lesson.*

## Lambeth Music Service

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