



MALCOLM SARGENT PRIMARY SCHOOL
Love to Learn

Kate Bidwell Piano Tuition



Parent Piano Lesson Handbook



About Me

Kate Bidwell is a professionally qualified piano and music teacher who lives in Stamford. She has almost 20 years extensive teaching experience in Stamford and the surrounding area teaching as both a peripatetic and private piano teacher, as well as being a professional accompanist to various local amateur choirs, societies and music festivals and is also the Musical Director of the Grantham Singers.

- Tailored lessons to meet the needs of the individual
- Excellent exam results - ABRSM / Trinity
- Scholarship Preparation
- DBS Checked
- Member of the Curious Piano Teachers / ISM / EPTA

Having successfully gained a Teaching Certificate and Diploma with the ABRSM in 2009, Kate went on to study music with the Open University, gaining a BA (Open) and has completed the Trinity Certificate of Music Educators (2022) whilst remaining committed to CPD which has included:

- British Kodaly Association - Foundation & Primary Level 1 (High Distinction)
- British Kodaly Association - Musicianship Levels 4 - 7 (High Distinction)
- BKA Summer School - August 2022 & 2023
- Penelope Roskell - Piano Teacher's Course for Advanced Piano Technique
- Chetham's Piano Summer School - Piano Teacher's Course (2020 & 2024) & Piano Performance Course (2021 & 2025)
- Lincolnshire Music Service – bi-annually training, including Safeguarding

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Teaching Philosophy

“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything” – Plato

Having established a successful portfolio career both as a music educator and performer, I am a passionate, encouraging and creative music teacher who enjoys teaching all ages of young children and people, both as a peripatetic piano teacher and music class teacher.

I take a holistic approach to teaching and learning, ensuring students develop as well-rounded musicians, drawing on proved pedagogical methodologies such as Kodaly and Dalcroze. Lessons are tailored to individual needs and it is my philosophy that learning music should be joyful. I make use of a wide range of creative resources within lessons and keep students motivated through the careful choice of appealing repertoire, and ensure musical learning is underpinned by both musicianship and theoretical understanding.

In my instrumental teaching, I pride myself on a 99% examination pass rate (100% pass rate at grades 6-Diploma) with excellent exam results. Performance opportunities are encouraged regularly through participation in music festivals, as well as my own student concerts, providing students with motivational goals to work towards throughout the year. I am also an advocate of group music making and enable piano students the opportunity to experience ensemble work regularly through duets.

As a passionate music educator, I am also committed to CPD and self-improvement, enabling me to be the best I can be for my students in the hope I inspire them to have a love of music for life too.

Piano Lessons at Malcolm Sargent Primary School – T&Cs

The Teacher – Kate Bidwell, will:

- Teach the Student according to a mutually discussed progress plan, agreed with the Student in September (or when lessons commence) setting short term and long term targets which will be reviewed in February (or as appropriate)
- Provide weekly feedback via the Practice Notebook, setting out what is to be worked on in between lessons and which is also a valuable communication tool between teacher, student and parent
- Produce a written annual progress report (and provide these to the designated School Contact if appropriate)
- Be punctual in beginning and ending lessons
- Be responsible for an appropriate teaching environment at Malcolm Sargent Primary School for the Student coming for lessons

The Student(s) (with parental/guardian support as required) will:

- Complete the set homework
- Commit to regular practise at home on a well maintained instrument in an appropriate environment and commit to regular, meaningful practice based on little and often
- Bring the necessary books / materials to lessons

Tuition

Lessons at Malcolm Sargent Primary School will take place during school hours on a rotational timetable basis, during the term time. Lessons are given on a one-to-one basis, tailored to the Student and in line with the Student's learning targets set.

Students will be collected from the classroom.

Fees

The hourly rate for 2025-26 academic year for individual lessons is £40.00 per hour, pro-rated at £20.00 for each 30-minute lesson per Student each week and £13.33 for each 20-minute lesson per Student each week. The Teacher reserves the right to review the fee on an annual basis in September (the beginning of each academic year). This will be communicated ahead of the start of each academic year.

Invoices will be sent out at the beginning of each full term (ie, September, January, April) and based on students receiving 30 lessons over the course of the academic year, eg 10 lessons per term. However, please note that this may in fact amount to less or more lessons given in any specific term depending on the term length. Where a Student starts partway through a term or academic year, then lessons will be invoiced per term based on the likely amount of lessons to be received for the remainder of the school year.

Alternatively, to spread the cost throughout the year, lessons may be paid for on a monthly basis, by way of standing order as follows:

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| 20 minute x 30 lessons of 12 monthly payments | = | £33.33 |
| 30 minute x 30 lessons of 12 monthly payments | = | £50.00 |

NB: Shared Lessons (maximum of two) would share the lesson cost 50:50.

From time to time, the Teacher may offer additional enrichment lessons, workshops or group activities outside of the scheduled weekly lessons in school. The rates for these lessons and events will be separately communicated on an event by event basis but will be subject to the terms and conduct within this agreement.

Wherever possible, all books and additional resources as well as student concerts are included in the lesson fee.

Missed Lessons

Missed lessons (including those missed due to Student illness) will be charged at the usual rate unless advance notice has been provided at the beginning of the term (for example: school trips or planned activity days). Unscheduled absences from school should be communicated to the Teacher by the Parents/Guardians as soon as possible and no less than 24 hours. Wherever possible, missed lessons will be endeavored to be made up over the course of the year and from time to time, the Teacher may offer a replacement lesson at her teaching studio outside school hours, at her discretion.

In the case where the Teacher is unable to provide a lesson at the specified time due to her own illness or attendance of a course for Continuing Professional Development, the lesson will either be rescheduled to a mutually convenient time or refunded.

Any missed lessons unable to be made up during the school year will at the Teacher's discretion either be credited against the next year's invoice, or credited in the case of lessons ceasing.

Termination of Tuition

This contract can be cancelled by mutual agreement at any time by giving notice in writing (by email). The period of notice to terminate lessons is **a full half-term before the last lesson of the term**. This period of notice will enable the Teacher to plan a positive series of lessons to conclude the learning journey for the Student and to allow the preparation of a transfer report should this be required. A reconciliation of lesson fees will be made for the account, taking into consideration the number of lessons scheduled in the term and the payments made up to the point of notice given. The Parents/ Guardians undertake the responsibility to settle all payments at the point of termination.

Rolling Contract / Failure to Give Notice

Unless terminated with the appropriate period of notice as stated above, this Agreement shall continue from Academic Year to Year. If the Student stops attending lessons during an ongoing Term, the Student (or Parents/ Guardians) is/are not entitled to a refund of any fees paid for that Term. The Student is entitled to attend all lessons scheduled for the term paid for. If the Parents/Guardians fail to give the required notice to terminate this Agreement, charges may be made in lieu of notice. If the Teacher stops lessons without giving the correct notice, the Teacher shall refund any fees already paid for any lessons not given.

Changes

Any changes to the terms of this Agreement must be confirmed in writing and signed and dated by both the Teacher and the Parent. If the Teacher chooses to waive any rights or remedy under this Agreement or otherwise (for example, the discretionary waiver of fees for any lessons which the Student or any other student does not attend) this shall not mean that she must do so in future or that she waives any other rights or remedies, unless agreed in writing.

Equipment, Lesson Materials and Books

The Teacher will wherever possible provide books and additional resources at no extra cost via the Teacher's lending library. The Student is responsible for any materials borrowed which should be returned in the condition they were given. However, from time to time, it may be necessary to purchase additional lesson materials. With cost in mind, the cost of these will be reimbursed by the Parents/Guardians and invoiced as they arise.

The Student is responsible for bringing their piano bag, containing lesson books, sheet music, and other resources that have been agreed, to school on lesson days. The Student is responsible for the borrowed material and should return it in the borrowed condition.

Use of Electronic Devices and Access to the Internet

The Student may be asked to conduct activities such as listening to music recordings, previewing example performances of upcoming pieces or researching the historical context of their upcoming work, which will require access to a computer and the internet at home. The Teacher may also recommend other digital learning resources such as a digital metronome, aural and theory resources that may require downloading of various apps onto home devices for access. Please note that the Parents/Guardians are responsible for safeguarding the Student's use of the computer and the internet outside of lesson times.

From time to time, the Teacher may want to share media (short video clips, lesson excerpts) via WhatsApp to aid the Student's home practice. The Parents/Guardians are to provide the Teacher with a suitable WhatsApp number to be used for this purpose.

GDPR – See Privacy Statement (issued separately).

Governing Law and Jurisdiction

This Agreement shall be subject to the laws of the jurisdiction of the location for the lessons (specified above) and the signatories to this Agreement agree that any dispute relating to the subject matter of this Agreement shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of that jurisdiction.

Signatures

This document is an electronic PDF document, sent by email to you, the Recipient. As such, no signature is required, however it is the Recipient's responsibility to ensure it is read and fully understood, with any queries being raised within 14 days of receipt, after which the Contract is deemed to have been accepted and effective until lessons cease.

July 2025