

Victoria Loram MusB(Hons) GRNCM PPRNCM
Member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians

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Clarinet, Saxophone and Recorder lessons in school

Dear Parent,

Your child has today heard a musical presentation given by me, Victoria Loram, on the above instruments and now has the opportunity to have individual lessons in school if they/you wish. Below is some information about me and about lessons in school.

I have been teaching for 30 years and have experience of teaching all ages and abilities. I have taught in lots of places including Plymouth College, Chagford and South Tawton Primary Schools, St Margaret's School in Exeter, Plymouth University and South West Music School.

The most important thing I try to do in lessons is to make them fun as my experience tells me that we retain information and learn skills best when we are enjoying ourselves. To this end we often play musical games and I include pupils' choices of music as well as introducing them to new styles and pieces. As well as instrumental technique the learning covers reading music, music theory, listening skills and general musicianship. I encourage pupils to improvise and write their own music too. The pace of the lessons is geared to the

pupil's individual needs and they can take exams and enter local music festivals if they wish but there is absolutely no pressure to do so.

There are scientific studies showing how the brain lights up when playing a musical instrument - showing how learning to play an instrument is good for the brain and therefore has a beneficial effect on overall learning ability across all subjects and areas of life. Here's a link to a short video which I highly recommend watching if you want more information on this. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0JKCYZ8hng>

As well as teaching I also play clarinet professionally with orchestras and small groups. I have played with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Glyndebourne Touring Opera, British Philharmonic Concert Orchestra and the Ten Tors Orchestra among others. I have also played in wind quintets and am currently in one called the Skylark Quintet (<https://www.skylarkquintet.com>). I am also part of a duo called Just Us Musique in which I play bass clarinet with violinist Cecilia Lamon. I've been on Radios 2 & 3 and played in lots of festivals including Aix-en-Provence, Montepulciano, Ryedale, Chichester and Aldeburgh. I have made CDs with Quintessence Wind Quintet and a clarinet sextet called The Clarinet Section (you can find these CDs on Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/artist/6kZzBDCgiafsgCHHOxSFDn> and <https://open.spotify.com/album/7lff4vMi9ix7ABQJFWu3H6>).

I studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and the University of Manchester. While at school in Canterbury I was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Lessons are either 20 or 30 minutes depending on your child's needs. Lessons are paid for by standing order which is £35 per month for 20 minute lessons and £52.50 per month for 30 minutes. The standing order runs for 12 months and covers 30 lessons over the academic year. If you'd like your child to have a one-off trial lesson the cost is £14 for 20 minutes or £21 for 30 mins. Individual lessons are best but under some circumstances lessons can be shared – please contact me to discuss this.

If you would like your child to have lessons or have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at the address below.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Loram

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