

Music Lessons @ Avonhead

Bookings for 2026



Avonhead School offers **music lessons** through our very talented private tutors. To help families, we link up students with tutors and provide rooms for lessons. Tutors are then responsible for the invoicing and communication with families. We are always here to help but in the first instance please talk to the tutors. Some instruments can be hired if necessary. Please ask your tutor.

Ten reasons to learn an instrument

There are so many benefits to learning an instrument. Here are ten for starters...

1. Increases memory skills
2. Teaches perseverance and creates a sense of achievement
3. Improves coordination
4. Improves maths skills
5. Improves reading and comprehension skills
6. Creates responsibility
7. Exposes the musician to culture and history
8. Nurtures self-expressions
9. Improves listening skills
10. Improves social skills

Avonhead School also offers the following **music groups**...

- Junior Choir - Years 3 and 4 (may be auditioned, depending on numbers)
- Senior Choir - Years 5 - 8
- Senior Chorale - Years 5 - 8 (auditioned)
- School orchestra - Years 4 - 8 (auditioned)*

**Students who learn an instrument may be asked to audition for the School Orchestra. Our orchestra conductor will listen to students play when they can play at least a scale. There is a possibility students will be able to join the orchestra throughout the year as well.*

All of these groups practise once a week, and **perform** at school and at different events throughout the year. Avonhead School pays for tutors to take these groups, so there is no cost involved to you. A year long **commitment** is expected, including evening performances. You will be asked to acknowledge that you understand this commitment when you register your child for a music group.

ENROLMENT:

If your child would like to join any of the music lessons or music groups, please complete the google form ([Music lessons and groups 2026](#)) to enrol them. Alternatively, you can type **tinyurl.com/yr8d62vk** into your search bar. Your information will then be passed on to the appropriate tutor, who will contact you in due course (early Term 1, 2026).

Key dates:

- Early bird enrolments open Tuesday 9 December 2025.
Final enrolments close Friday 13 February 2026.
- Please keep this page as it contains important contact information for tutors.
- Avonhead School is happy to help set up lessons and arrange bookings for tutors and rooms.
Invoicing queries and lesson cancellations remain the sole responsibility of parents.

OUR TUTORS

CLARINET and SAXOPHONE

Tutor - Jonathan Prior teaches clarinet and saxophone to many children in Christchurch, and we were lucky enough to get him at Avonhead a couple of years ago. He is the associate principal clarinet with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra.

- Individual lessons are \$33 for 30 minutes

SINGING - 'JELLYBEANS'

Tutor - Elizabeth Eason (aka The 'JellyBean Queen')

Years 2 - Year 8 (New beginners welcome)

\$140 flat rate per term for small group lessons with your vocal coach learning 'Music through Singing.'

Please register for singing lessons through this website

(<https://jellybeans.duetpartner.com/registration>) in addition to the Avonhead School google form.

For more information visit: <https://linktr.ee/jellybeanqueensongs>



FLUTE

Tutor - Susan Dollin - flute (Mus.B(Hons), B.A, A.I.R.M.T. Susan is a very experienced teacher and performer who loves sharing her knowledge and creating a fun environment to learn music. Lessons are suitable from approx age 9 and Susan can assist with obtaining an instrument.

- Individual lessons are \$22 for 20 minutes or \$33 for 30 minutes
- Pairs lessons are possible, please contact Susan

Email: gill.susan@gmail.com

BRASS - TRUMPET, TROMBONE and MORE

Tutor - Bill Vail is an experienced brass player and teacher, offering packages including instrumental lessons, ensemble extensions and easy/affordable instrument hire.

30 minute Individual or small group lessons can be backed up with a fun ensemble experience at Nor'west Brass band on Thursday evenings, along with access to their large range of instruments. The balance of mastering the instrument with your tutor and banding together with friends is a fun and rewarding way to gain rapid progress on your chosen instrument.

Please note these lessons will be at Bill's house on Withells Road out of school time.

Fees per term:

- Individual lessons \$280.
- Groups of 2 students \$175 per student.
- Groups of 3 students \$140 per student.

Group lessons depend on availability of suitable groupings and are only recommended for the first year of playing.

Nor'west Brass:

- Membership: \$40 per term
- Instrument: \$40

Phone: 029-777-4233

Email: billatnz@gmail.com

GUITAR / UKULELE / PIANO / KEYBOARD

Tutor - Sandra Wilson - Music Notes Ltd (Experienced Teacher of 20 years/Performer/Songwriter) Children are taught individually or in small groups. We have fun learning lots of styles of playing and techniques.

- Small group lessons are \$185 per term - 30 minutes lessons
- Individual lessons from \$235 per term - 20 or 30 minutes individual lessons
- Discounts for more than one instrument, or 2 or more children in one family
- Beginners are welcome at any stage of the year
- Hire instruments are available

Please purchase your musical instrument at retailers and not The Warehouse or Toy shops.

Email: nzsandra99@gmail.com

Facebook: [Music Notes Limited](#)



VIOLIN

Tutor - Bistra Dimitrov is a highly qualified and experienced Violin teacher and performer with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra.

- Lessons are on a one- to-one basis and cost \$40 per half hour
- Shorter or group lessons are also possible
- Beginners are welcome (up to school Year 6)

Bistra is also going to start a Beginner's Violin Group for Years 3-6. Lessons will take place immediately after school (3.15 -3.45 pm). The group will run with a minimum of 4 students and a maximum of 6 or 7 students.

The cost will be \$95 per term. Parents will need to provide a suitable instrument and a tutor book; Bistra is very happy to offer guidance and support with choosing both.

Phone: 021 799707

Email: bisanz97@gmail.com

DRUMS

Tutor - Liam Dodge and Aaron Wildermoth| Monster Music ([Click here](#) if you would like to find out more about Liam or Aaron)

Monster Music is a Christchurch based music school who are passionate about providing children with an exciting and relevant introduction to learning an instrument. As well as weekly lessons, Monster Music has a huge emphasis on helping children gain confidence through regular performance opportunities both in their schools and in the community.

- \$92 per month for 30 minute small group class (Between 2 and 4 students)
- \$105 per month for 20 minute private lesson
- \$136 per month for 30 minute private lesson

Email: office@monstermusic.nz

[Enrol here](#) (or through the Avonhead School enrolment form)

CELLO

Tutor - while we don't currently have a cello tutor, please still enrol for this instrument, and I will find one!

OTHER

If you are interested in any other instrument, please contact Darelle Busfield (dbusfield@avonhead.school.nz).

We love having musicians in our school, and learning an instrument has so many benefits!