

EXAM - INFO

music | grading | learning

In an Exam...

Set songs

Each child sitting a singing exam will have 3 set songs to sing and 1 traditional song. These should be memorised fully and be confidently known about 6 weeks before the exam, so that the performance is strong. Story telling is essential (as is accuracy of the music notes).

Aural tests

These are set questions which test your child's ability to hear musical sounds. They test knowledge, sounds and repetition. It's tempting to forget to practice these, but regular practice will improve marks. Check out - ABRSM aural trainer app! Or purchase from AMAZON ABRSM specimen aural books with CD. Book 1 covers grades 1-3.

Sight singing

A previously unseen song will be given to your child and they will be asked to try singing along with the piano. This is tricky for singers as they must 'feel' for the sound. Children should use their 'Joining the dots' books to help build confidence with sight singing.



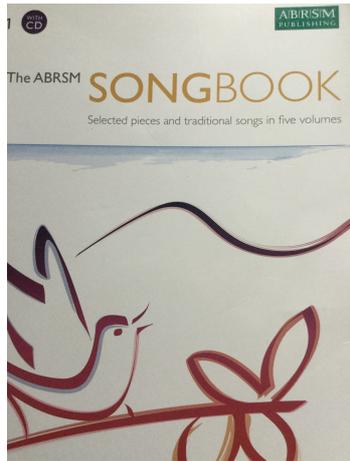
EXAMS... At this time of year, it is common for some discussion about music exams to pop up.

Over the course of this past year, your child will have been engaging in singing tuition and a large part of that tuition will have been geared around musical stages called grades. These grades are very useful for many reasons, amongst those being progress assessments and their contribution to a points system used by UK universities called UCCAS. Should your child decide to pursue a university training, their singing grades will count as points towards entry onto an array of courses.

Entry for Graded Exams

Entry for examination must be consented by a parent/guardian and is made officially by the schools singing teacher; this happens three times a year (Spring, Summer & Winter). There will always be an opportunity for children to enter for these exams - see ABRSM exam dates and fees.

All exam fees need to be paid in full before entry can be finally made.



On the day ...

Your child will be accompanied into the exam room by a pianist who will play their songs for them - this is not their singing teacher so as to avoid distractions.

Your child should bring...

- All original copies of their music
- A program sheet outlining their list of song choices
- Any accompanist fees (should they be required)

Your child will sing solo (on their own) and present their songs first. - Make sure all songs are memorised and are being performed; telling the story, using facial expressions, standing nice and tall and avoiding fidgeting.

Next, the accompanist will leave the room and your child will complete their sight singing and aural tests. - Regular practice using the suggested books will build confidence with these. Remember it's not about everything being absolutely perfect, but rather, having a good try 🎵

✓ WHERE are exams held?

Exam are held in a local test centre. Your local test centre is:

Antrim Board Centre, Antrim.

(Opposite The Forum Leisure Centre)

Who is the PIANIST - Mr Stuart Beattie 07460 436063

☰ How you can help...

1. Check your child's school diary for practice tips.
2. Set aside regular short bursts of practice (approx 15-20mins).
3. Ask your child to perform for you regularly.
4. Encourage your child to teach you the musical exercises.
5. Remind often, about aural tests and sight singing practice.

