

Classical Guitar



Who can play the classical guitar?	<i>Classical guitar is suitable for all ages. Pupils can start at any age, though most start during KS2. It is important that pupils play the right size for their age. Classical guitars are available in half, three quarter and full size.</i>
If it is not suitable for everyone, what alternative instrument would you recommend and why?	<i>Younger pupils in KS1 might benefit from starting on the ukulele. It is smaller and easier to hold for very young players and requires less stretching.</i>
What qualities of the classical guitar are special?	<i>The classical guitar has a beautiful resonant sound. It has a large range of notes and techniques that can be used to play single line melodies and self-accompanied pieces. It is also used to play chords. The classical guitar can be used to play a range of musical styles; Spanish, Classical, Modern, Blues, Jazz, Popular, TV and Film Themes.</i>
Learning to play any instrument develops lots of new skills. What are the particular benefits of playing the classical guitar?	<i>The guitar is a very popular instrument due to its versatility. It can also be played solo, or in a group. Musica Kirklees has many guitar ensembles at junior, intermediate and senior levels which encourage pupils to work together as a team to produce quality performances. Many pupils go on to take graded examinations and use guitar skills in the curriculum at KS3 and for GCSE Music.</i>
How are classical guitars similar/different to other guitars?	<i>The classical guitar has nylon strings. It is played with the fingers and it doesn't need plectrums or amplification to work. It is widely accepted that younger pupils benefit when they learn transferable musical skills on a classical guitar, like reading music, fretboard knowledge and techniques which can then be applied to other fretted instruments if the pupils choose at a later date.</i>
Are there any famous musicians or pieces associated with the classical guitar?	<i>Craig Ogden, Xuefei Yang, John Williams, Segovia.</i>
Any other useful information:	<i>Classical guitars are not overly expensive instruments and are easily available from music shops where pupils can be sized for the correct instrument. It is not recommended to purchase guitars by mail order or from catalogues.</i>