

Philip Graves

Musician & Teacher
BA (Hons)

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MORE INFO at
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Teaching Info

I have been teaching music for over thirty years... from home, in different schools (mainstream, private, special needs) and now solely from Dove Studio. Most of my pupils are local children, although I also teach adults. I began teaching in 1993 – full-time from 1995 when I finished my music degree... I studied piano and guitar, and specialized in composition & 'music in education'. I have played (either piano/keyboards, guitar or bass) in many different bands over the last 50 years... punk, alternative, rock, jazz, pop, big band, salsa, latin; original and cover 'function' bands. My passion has always been songwriting and I am a 'persistent' songwriter...

<https://soundcloud.com/phil-dovestudio-biz/sets>

I work in tandem with the school's term calendar. I bill you half-termly, lessons are currently £22 for a half-hour lesson... the six week average being £132 per half-term. I organise a concert every year for the pupils to perform in ... always an enjoyable day. Although some pupils do perform solo at the concert, they generally perform together in small groups/bands, and in the summer term, leading up to the concert, work together in preparation. This period of group work is not only fun & stimulating for the pupils but also an important element of their musical education.

Although lessons are instrument centred they also incorporate general music skills and activities (all pupils tend to play drums in their groups for instance). I try to provide a mix of the positive aspects of 'conventional' music teaching with the more modern joys of teaching music... improvising & soloing, understanding chords/harmony and how 'it all works!', jazz/modern styles, recording & use of music technology, songwriting (many pupils have developed their song-writing here).

PTO

I encourage pupils to sing songs and teach them to accompany themselves on their instrument. I provide a notebook in which I list work set for the week. I also provide 90% of the books & materials pupils' use, **lending them out...** rather than you buying many books that might only be used for a few months. If a book has a more long-term use I will get it and sell it on to you.

Concerts and exams are very useful as goals to work towards... to help focus the mind. Concerts are of course the more 'natural' of the two and the most fun perhaps... but exams are very useful too, and a good challenge. I enter pupils for a variety of exam types, varying between; classical piano, jazz (i.e. modern styles) piano, piano duet, electric guitar, bass guitar & acoustic guitar. Also music theory grades.

Pupil Bands Once a pupil has established themselves with their instrument I try if possible to timetable them alongside other similar pupils. This enables small groups of pupils to occasionally, but fairly regularly, get together and share their lesson time working as a band. Members will work on the same materials individually (often songs) that then feed into their group work – it's fun, stimulating and generally a good thing all round. We either record a CD or produce a music video in the autumn term for Xmas publication! See...

Audio <http://soundcloud.com/pupils-at-dove-studio>

Video / YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChrsivBxPnMM5HEQwMMtlwg>

And all groups perform in the summer concert. I try and mix guitarists, pianists, keyboardists, singers & drummers – i.e. make up bands.

Conditions

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Each term is a set amount of weeks (Autumn 14, Spring 12, Summer 13 is the norm).

If a pupil can't make lesson please give me as much notice as possible. The lesson can rescheduled but only within the same working week.
(Rearrangements need to be made before the day of the lesson please).

If a lesson is missed without warning it will not be rearranged.

Is a half-termly commitment financially. Fees are not refunded.