

CORK ETB SCHOOL OF MUSIC



ASSESSMENT POLICY

The Cork ETB School of Music is committed to providing a quality music service for its students. We aspire to excellence while encouraging participation, effort, personal best and community involvement. Constructive assessment and evaluation procedures are an integral part of this.

We acknowledge that each student is an individual and will progress at his/her own rate by devoting adequate practice time at home with the help and support of parents/guardians.

- Student progress will be continually assessed by the teacher throughout the year with comments and recommendations being noted in the Student Journal. We request that parents work with us by reading the journal, staying in touch with the teacher and supporting the fostering of an approach to regular practice at home.
- Any matters relating to student progress and music lessons should be discussed with the student's teacher in the first instance. Parents are invited to meet the Music Teacher during the student's lesson time with prior appointment.
- Progress Reports may also be issued from time to time and will keep parents informed of their child's application and progress.
- A graded Examinations programme is available to all of our students. The teacher will advise when the student is ready for same.

a) Examinations

- Where appropriate, our students follow structured syllabi and are guided through a rigorous grading system by means of examinations which are held on an annual basis. They are examined by a team of highly specialised examiners who offer an objective opinion on the standards reached by each student and helpful advice on their progress going forward.
- Our priority is to ensure that our students are managing the technical and musical requirements of their own individual and particular stage.
- The teaching staff of the Cork ETB School of Music are skilled professionals who understand the various stages of development. When a teacher deems it appropriate to spend a longer time preparing for the next grade/cycle, they do so with professional judgement and experience. Decisions made by the teacher in this regard are made in the child's best interests.

Organisational Matters

- Parents should note that the Examinations will commence on the Tuesday following the May Bank Holiday weekend.

- The usual duration for the examinations is 2-3 weeks but this is dictated by the number of entries and can fluctuate on an annual basis.
- Due to the huge volume of entries for exams, it has been necessary to centralise the system and to designate the larger schools as the main Examination Centres.
- Prior to the exam, all students will be facilitated (as instrument appropriate) with two rehearsals and an accompanist. These rehearsals may take place at the teaching centre or at the examination centre.
- Examination dates cannot be changed except in unusual circumstances.