



Music Case Study: Child A

Name: Child A	Year: 6
Main instrument: Guitar	
When did you first start having lessons? At the beginning of Year 3	
Have you had the same teacher since you started? It's changed. I had a new teacher in Year 5 called Mr Taylor. He counts me in to the songs. He lets me play through the music first and then gives me ideas about what I could change and improve when I play it the next time. It was OK to change teacher as my lessons just carried on and my new teacher picked up where the other one left off. I used to have group lessons but now I have an individual one.	
What do you study during your lessons? We usually start by playing the piece of music in 'Guitarists' Way book 2' that I've been learning and then in time we would move on to the next one. If the piece of music is short, I would spend about 3 lessons getting it right, but if it's longer it might take 4 or 5 lessons. Mr Taylor would give me advice on where to put my fingers on the frets of the guitar.	
Tell me about some of the things you've learned during your lessons I've learned that when you want to play an F on the E string, you'd use your index finger on the first fret. You'd put your third finger on the third fret for a G. 'Easter Bunny Goes Dancing At Easter' helps me to remember the string names.	
What opportunities have you had as a result of your music lessons? I've gone to a music festival called 'Let's Play!' and I've played in front of grown-ups. I really enjoyed this because I got to share my music with an audience. I've also got to play in the musical performances at the end of a half term. I enjoyed this one the most because I had learned more by then so I was able to play a more complicated piece.	
Have you always wanted to play this instrument? No – I only wanted to start playing it in Year 3 when I found out that I could start playing in school. It was my decision to start playing.	
How do your instrumental lessons link with Curriculum music lessons in school? When we were practising the chords on guitar in Year 5, I already knew what strings I needed to play and where to put my fingers. I really enjoyed this unit because I already knew some things so that meant I was already confident.	
What do you hope to do in the future? I think I might want to carry on with lessons as I go into high school and then hopefully, I'll carry on doing music in my free time as a hobby. Maybe I'd want to be part of a band or group.	
Apart from learning music, how else do you think having instrumental lessons has helped you? It has helped my coordination because when I did it more and more I was able to find the notes quicker on the guitar and that has made me able to sort things quicker than I used to. Performing in front of an audience has also given me more confidence.	

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Music Case Study: Child B

Name: Child B

Year: 7

Can you please explain all of the music activities you were involved in during your time at primary school?

I was involved with the choir all the way from Year 3. I had piano and guitar lessons. I started Piano in Year 3 and then guitar in Year 4. I did Wider opportunities with Mrs Lord and then I did music lessons in class with Miss Gray.

Instruments – did you have the same teacher or did this change?

Piano – Yes – I have had the same teacher (Miss Parry)

Guitar – It has changed twice – I had Craig, then Andrew and then Mr Taylor.

It's easier having the same teacher because they know where you're at. When I had a new teacher for guitar, it felt like I was having to start from scratch explaining what I could do to my new teacher and it took time for us to get used to each other.

What musical activities are you involved with now that you're at high school?

I have the opportunity to join the brass band because Miss Hodcroft told Mrs Robinson about me and that I play piano and guitar and Mrs Robinson asked me if I'd like to join the band. I don't know what instrument I'll be on yet because we only have our first practice next week.

I will also be carrying on my piano and guitar lessons with a private tutor through school.

I will be having music lessons with the rest of my form.

I will be joining the school choir on a Monday lunchtime.

How do you think your experiences with music in primary school have helped to shape you?

I had a lovely experience in the choir, especially when I had a solo part because I got to sing my part in front of all of the children in the choir from Y2 – Y6 and in front of our grown-ups when they came watching. We did the Christmas lights switch-on and Christmas was always my favourite time in choir because we did the best songs. I enjoyed the Polar Express song (When Christmas comes to town), Feliz Navidad and Jingle Bells. I enjoyed singing in front of a large audience of parents and children at the art exhibition. It was great to sing in that environment with all of the artwork around me. I liked singing in church too at the Singing Festival because we could also see what other schools were learning and it gave us the chance to see them perform as well as performing ourselves.

Being in the choir has given me lots of confidence in singing because I've had the chance to sing in front of an audience both as a group and as a soloist. I loved doing the vocal exercises and this has helped me with my speech to slow down and be more expressive. It was fun leading warm-ups sometimes too as I got to practice teaching the choir. I always found choir really welcoming because the children were all there for the same reason and Miss Gray always made me feel valued and made it fun. I always loved the song choices in choir, in fact I don't think there was ever a song that I didn't like doing. It has inspired me to want to carry on in the choir in high school. Being in choir was like having my own community where everyone knew me and where I felt at home.

I always enjoyed the half-termly performances because we got to showcase our singing and show off what pieces we had been learning. This also gave me the chance to perform on the piano and the guitar in front of parents and carers. I did this quite a few times.

I got invited to perform at the Let's Play concert a few times. This was really fun. I was always a bit nervous because there were so many people there and they were all so good at playing too, but I still did it and had a great time.

My music lessons have helped me to develop my confidence performing on the piano and guitar. I have been lucky to have lots of opportunities to perform in different events.

Doing music in primary school has helped me to be more in touch with music. Now when I listen to music, I don't just hear it and think, 'That's a nice song' like I used to – I feel the music and I understand what's happening in the music too. My love for music has also inspired me to continue with dance as these are related.

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What technical skills did you develop through your experiences of music in primary school?

Guitar and piano lessons – I'm pretty good at sight reading now in piano and guitar, I have developed my rhythm, tempo and I can read time signatures. I can also read musical notation and tell what key a piece of music is in.

Choir – Choir opened my vocal range and enabled me to speak and sing more interestingly and expressively.

Wider Opps – I developed using my body as an instrument (body percussion), I can now make my own beats using body percussion. I always enjoyed doing the warm-ups, playing the instruments and performing to parents as they were able to see what we were learning.

Curriculum lessons – These were helpful as they were like a recap of everything I'd learned with my instrument teachers. We could learn from other people in class too. Miss Gray taught us about the note values and rests and being able to understand the position of notes on a staff. Miss Gray also showed us apps that we could use for music like 'chromelab', which I still use today to help with my piano as I found this really useful.

What would you like to do in the future?

I really want to do something related to music. I also love children so I think I might like to be a music teacher and run the choir, particularly in a primary school as that's when you get to do the most fun things in music. I'd love to carry on playing instruments and if I have my own children, I'd love to show them how to play the piano and guitar to carry on the tradition of music in my family. I always turn to my instruments when I'm having a bad day as it calms me and it's like mindfulness.

What are you hoping to achieve in music during high school?

I'm hoping to be really involved with the brass band and do lots of concerts with them. I think maybe I'd like to play the trumpet. I hope to have lots of chance to expand my musical knowledge and experiences. I want people to know who I am and associate me with music, and to have the chance to perform for lots of people. I am also hoping to be in some of the shows involving drama and music.

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