

How to care for your Woodwind Instrument

Instruments covered in this leaflet:	Flute Clarinet Saxophone	Oboe Mini Bassoon
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We hope you enjoy learning your new instrument. Below you will find advice on how to care for your instrument and what to do if it breaks.

Please do not try and play your instrument before your first lesson, it's very fragile and could get broken. Your teacher will let you know which tutor book to buy so you can get started!

Caring for the instrument

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always take care when putting the instrument together. Your teacher will show you how.• Never leave your instrument next to a radiator, in direct sunlight or in a very cold or damp place. Always put the instrument away immediately after you have finished playing it. Never leave the instrument assembled on a chair, bed, music stand or anywhere it can get damaged.• Never let another person play your instrument, unless it's your teacher.• Never force an instrument into its case or force the lid to close, and always make sure the case is properly closed before moving it, otherwise the instrument may fall out.• Before returning the instrument to its case, use a cleaning cloth/pull-through inside each section to remove any moisture. (Mini Bassoon: Blow through the crook to remove moisture).• The outside of the instrument can be polished with a duster, being careful to avoid the keys and mechanisms.• Reeds may need replacing from time to time (not flutes). You will need to buy replacements from a music shop. Your teacher will recommend what gauge to purchase.
Clarinet and Saxophone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The mouthpiece will need physically cleaning. After removing the reed, it can be placed upside down in cup of warm water to soak – making sure no water goes on the cork – then clean with a small brush.

Repairs

If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they will either mend it for you or ask you to return it to the instrument store to get a replacement. This may incur a charge.