

Preston Manor School, Carlton Avenue East, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 8NA
Head: Mr. R. Denial **Director of Music:** Mr. K. C. Crawley GTCL, MMUS
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The Preston Manor Music Academy takes pride in the achievements of pupils it enters on a termly basis for practical and theoretical music examinations.

The Examination Possibilities:

Practical Prep Test: a gentle introduction to music exams for the youngest musicians.

Music Medals: examinations for group-taught pupils at the early stages of learning.

Practical Music Exams: grades 1 – 8, the internationally benchmarked standard for performance.

Practical Jazz Grades: grades 1 – 5 for piano, flute, clarinet and alto/tenor sax

Theory Exams: grades 1 – 8, a series of written examinations assessing analytical and theoretical skills.

Music Theatre Exams: grades 1 – 8 exploring the vocal repertoire of musicals.

Pop Music Vocals: grades 1 – 8 exploring popular styles from the past and present.

Our Ethos:

A student will only be entered for their graded examination if their instrumental / vocal teacher believes they are able to pass first time and to a high standard. This can take as long as two years for an individual to reach Grade 1 standard. However, this does vary as each student has a different level of natural ability and subsequently requires varying time spans in order to reach the required level. Mr. Crawley (Director of Music) reserves the right to withdraw a pupil (without refund) from their exam if agreed targets are not met in the run up to the examination date. Music Academy Practice Planners may be issued to candidates once entry has been made as a means for pupils, teachers and families to effectively monitor weekly progress if needed.

To pass a graded instrumental/vocal examination a student will typically need:

- Sight reading skills to the grade appropriate level.
- The ability to perform three pieces of valid grade equivalent music. A list A, B & C piece. The instrumental teacher will provide these at the appropriate time.

- The ability to play from memory a selection of scales, arpeggios and broken chords or other technical exercises.
- Aural recognition skills.

For a student to acquire these skills it is expected that they will engage in regular practise of their instrument.

- A minimum of 20 minutes daily practise – this will need to increase inline with the difficulty of the grade.
- Dedication from the student.
- Good attendance and punctuality.
- Focus and 100% effort in class.

The fee to take an examination varies depending on the grade and also on the nature of the graded test, that is, practical or theoretical. The following table shows the costs at March 2022 which should be used as a *guide only* as it will be subject to change according to exam board and yearly inflation.

Theory Exam	Fee	Practical Exam	Fee
Grade 1	£36	Grade 1	£48
Grade 2	£38	Grade 2	£55
Grade 3	£42	Grade 3	£64
Grade 4	£46	Grade 4	£69
Grade 5	£49	Grade 5	£76
		Grade 6	£88
		Grade 7	£94
		Grade 8	£111

Fees paid are non-refundable. Please be aware that we have no direct control over the date or examination times, as a Music School we can only request a date; the exam board tries to facilitate this as far as possible. There have been, in the past, cases where examination dates are a month either side of the requested week. Practical examinations usually take place off site. Original copies (not photocopies) of the music must be brought to the examination, candidates failing to do so will be disqualified. We are able to lend original copies if required. Wherever possible a Preston Manor Music Academy teacher will accompany students to the examination centre. The teacher, however, cannot stay with the student during the test; this is a rule common to all examination boards.

Enjoy and Achieve:

These examinations and assessments motivate students of all levels and ages, giving them a series of realistic goals and tangible rewards for their achievements. Examination syllabuses are not intended to provide a complete curriculum. Students are encouraged to play and experience as much music as possible, embracing a wide range of genres. Whilst examinations are useful goals with which to achieve our aims as musicians, they are not the primary goals in themselves.