

Taking Care of Your Woodwind Instrument

- Always lay the case down flat before you unpack your instrument.
- Keep your instrument away from extreme hot and cold temperatures.
- When assembling your instrument make sure the different parts of the instrument are put together gently, twisted into place.
- If using reeds with your woodwind instrument, treat with care, they are delicate and break easily. As soon as they break or chip, throw them away and replace with a new reed. Reeds need replacing regularly even if they are not broken.
- If you play the clarinet or the saxophone, there will be some cork grease in your case which lubricates the cork joint and helps you put your instrument together more easily. Only use this if your teacher tells you to use it
- DO NOT let anyone else play your instrument, it is your responsibility.
- DO NOT leave your instrument stood upright, always lay it flat and not resting on any keys.
- When you are not playing your instrument either pack it away or buy a special stand that allows you to leave your instrument out safely. You can purchase those in music shops or on the internet - they are called flute stand, clarinet stand or saxophone stand.
- If you have a problem with your instrument or if you think it is broken, bring it back to your music teacher at school and DO NOT try to get it repaired yourself. Alternatively contact our instrument warehouse team at msinstruments@lancashire.gov.uk for advice.
- Practice at home. By playing your instrument a little each day you will make good progress and keep your instrument in good working order.
- To help you practice you can log in to Lancashiremusicserviceinteractive.co.uk. You will find this information in your practice diary.

Following these guidelines will ensure that you have great fun playing your instrument.

