

How to care for your Brass Instrument

Instruments covered in this leaflet:	Trumpet/Cornet French Horn (Mini) Tenor Horn	Trombone Baritone Euphonium
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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 let anyone else play your instrument, unless they are 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, blow through the instrument with the spit valve open a few times to remove any moisture.• The outside of the instrument can be polished with a clean duster to remove fingerprints.• If a valve becomes stuck, take the instrument to your teacher for assistance.• If a tuning slide becomes stuck, take the instrument to your teacher for assistance.
Trombone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If your Trombone slide becomes sticky, take the instrument to your teacher for assistance.
The Mouthpiece
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Never force the mouthpiece into the instrument.• Do not tap or push the mouthpiece when it is in the instrument, as it can get stuck easily.• If your mouthpiece becomes stuck, ask a parent/carer for help. DO NOT USE PLIERS OR ANY TOOLS. If it does not come out using your hands, please speak to your teacher about getting it removed. If the instrument is hired from us, you should contact the office on music@hillington.gov.uk to arrange for it to be removed. The instrument will not fit inside your case, so it is vital that you wrap the instrument in a towel to protect it and place it in a secure bag for travel.• It is a good idea to clean your mouthpiece once a month. Place it in a cup of hot water to help sterilisation. It is possible to buy a small mouthpiece brush to assist in its cleaning.

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.