



## Lesson Planning Guideline

To ensure that you are conducting effective lessons week on week, we believe it is very important to have lesson plans tailored for each individual student.

The following tips and tricks should help you to develop a more confident approach to your lessons.

### **1) Recognise the student's level, strengths and areas for improvement**

Take into consideration the student's level of understanding and ability across multiple areas including technique, performance, theory, etc. Observe how the student may excel in a particular area of the subject/instrument, and how they may have other areas which need more focus to match and compliment their strengths.

### **2) Decide on subject matter covered in each lesson**

Depending on the student's musical journey, you may want to divide lesson time equally into practical and theory. Some students would benefit from a more 'hands on' approach, whereas others may need to spend more time developing their theoretical understanding to be able to move forward. This could include (but is not limited to) a variety of:



- Pieces/Songs
- Scales
- Technical exercises
- Theory study
- Games
- Improvisation
- Composing

### **3) Consider the materials you will be using for the student**

If the student is a young child, we typically suggest a compatible children's book. Similarly, there are also adult resources for older students. However books are not strictly age-restricted: depending on the level and rate of learning, you may suggest more advanced books for younger students, or more introductory books for older students if you believe they would benefit from them.

If the student is preparing for an exam, make sure that they have acquired the correct exam books according to the exam board, and double check to see if they are in date. Many books do have an 'expiry date' according to the exam periods.

### **4) Ensure all students have a Homework Diary**

We highly insist that all students bring their own homework diaries to every lesson. Either the student or you should write homework into the diary, dating each page, ensuring that you clearly outline which targets the student should be working towards in their own time.

Avoid writing homework tasks on the music itself, so that all notes are tidy, clear and presentable, avoiding any confusion.

Read through the homework tasks before the end of each lesson, so that the student is clear on what they should work on until your next lesson.

Keeping a record of homework helps you keep track of your student's progress, and holds the student accountable for their own practice.

### **5) Be realistic about how much you can cover in one lesson**

Aim to measure time spent on each subject, and consider whether you are giving too much or too little information to the student within the lesson. As all students learn at different paces, you will find that lesson plans may need to be adjusted to match the student's learning rate.

### **6) Be prepared in case of unexpected changes**

Your student may have forgotten their books at home, or decided that they don't want to look at a particular piece today as they need to step away from it for a few days after overpracticing it. They may have even broken a finger but are happy to turn up to lessons and use one hand for the next few weeks! Be prepared to deliver other subject/instrument material in such circumstances, considering what the student would benefit most from.

### **7) Review your lesson plans**

Observe whether you are planning lessons according to the appropriate level, amount, time, range and learning style. You can reflect on your lesson plan yourself, and analyse how they translate into reality by seeing whether your students are happy, engaged and learning everything you want them to in lessons.

Finally, do not hesitate to contact the team at [info@rivermusicschool.com](mailto:info@rivermusicschool.com) if you require further advice or have any questions, and we'll be happy to review your lesson plans and guide you further!

