



Parents – Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

There are two products on offer at Clive's – **Easylearn Lessons** in guitar, bass, drums and keyboards which focus on the world of rock, (with special sessions for adults in some outlets too) and **Poptrain**, which focuses on the pop world and encompasses singing, songwriting, recording, dance choreography and performance. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about the way we operate:

- Your child has one Clive's Easylearn lesson or one Poptrain lesson per week.
- Junior lessons for 7-9 year-olds are half-hour long in Easylearn. (These are not offered in all schools).
- Senior lessons for 10 year-olds and above are one-hour long and include our fifteen minute "easyjam" session.
- Poptrain lessons are one-hour long and offered to children of 9 and over.
- Easylearn sessions take place in a large hall on a ratio of two children to one tutor at one of our teaching stations. This enables a range of unique play together opportunities that quickly build confidence and skills and are fun!
- Poptrain sessions also take place in a large hall on a ratio of one tutor to six students at one of our teaching stations. This enables the students to work together as a pop band focusing on creating original songs and performing to their favourite chart hits.
- Our tutors are carefully trained and vetted and are undergoing or have passed CRB checks.
- All lessons are supervised by a dedicated manager, who will act as your point of contact.

- All schools will offer your child a free 15-minute taster session to experience Easylearn or Poptrain first-hand. These can be requested using the form on the individual schools pages of the website at www.clivesmusic.com.
- Lessons are purchased in advance on a monthly basis, and are paid for via standing order. However, if you start part-way through a month, then the school will request an initial part-payment via cash/cheque.
- Please accompany your child to the taster session and bring your bank details so that, should you wish to book, the school manager can complete the booking form and standing order mandate without delay at the visit, schedule an ongoing tutor and properly enrol your child into the school.
- We want your child to be entirely happy with their sessions and so, following the free taster session, at your child's first scheduled lesson, we offer a Money Back Guarantee. If for any reason you are not satisfied, simply call the school by midnight on the day of the session and explain why. The school will immediately issue you with a refund of all that you have paid. At Clive's there's absolutely no risk.
- We are not term-based, and so lessons continue throughout the year.
- Refunds are not available for missed lessons. However a "Planned Absence Voucher Scheme" is in operation in all schools, which provides opportunities to make up for missed lessons due to family holidays etc. Please ask your chosen school manager for details of this flexible scheme.
- One month's notice is required from the forthcoming standing order payment if you wish to withdraw your child from a school.
- You have full control over your standing order payments and are responsible for stopping them when you leave the school. The school itself does not have the power to do this.
- Prices for our sessions are shown on the individual schools pages of this website.

We hope that this answers most of the frequently asked questions. However, if you would like more detail about something, please contact the individual school direct - or even better, simply ask about it when you arrive for your free taster session. Why not request this online now by visiting www.clivesmusic.com

Clive's Easylearn Lessons Explained

Clive's Easylearn lessons are available in guitar, drums, keyboards and bass guitar.

In the hall, there are up to 6 teaching stations in action at the same time. Electric guitarists, bass guitarists, keyboardists and drummers (on electronic kits) all use headphones for the learning section of the lesson. This ensures that children can concentrate fully on the course material and get the very best out of the session.

In the contrasting easyjam session section of the session, headphones come off and it gets noisy and fun, with tutors guiding their students in working with everyone else in the hall to experience the excitement of playing in a band - right from the very first lesson!

We recommend that guitarists and bassists bring their own instrument, headphones and amplifier, and that keyboardists bring their own portable keyboard, stand and headphones. However, for complete beginners, most schools have some instruments available for use. Please enquire when you call.

Our unique Easylearn course materials are unavailable elsewhere and have been painstakingly developed and tested over 26 years by Clive Brooks BA(Hons), the founder of the schools network. The principle is to make music easy and direct and get rid of all the complicated elements that slow down progress. Children do learn "properly", but in a much more exciting and proactive way.

Thousands of people have been successfully taught since the first school opened in 1981.

Poptrain explained

Poptrain is the ultimate introduction to the exciting world of Pop Music. Poptrain will have children Singing, Songwriting and Recording their own songs for internet Release, plus Dancing and Performing in their very own pop group to the latest chart hits.

At last an irresistible activity for pop crazy children that's got everything; Songwriting, Recording, Singing, Dancing and Performance.

Here's how the absolutely unique programme works.

Your child attends a one-hour Poptrain session each week. Individual attention and quality of instruction is assured. The programme cycles between two main educational elements.

1. Dance & Performance Week

In this session, the focus is dance – with our 6:1 tutor ratio, so NO large groups. The objective is to choreograph a dance routine to the chart song of the month, a chart hit – (we work on one of these each month). Traditionally this would have been a complicated, lengthy and difficult task, but with Poptrain it's a breeze. We've created around 80 simple Poptrain dance moves that your child can select and piece together just like a jigsaw with the support and help of their tutor, resulting – as if by magic – in a professional dance routine, where you are able to come back 15 minutes early and take a seat as your child joins with others to offer a mini-performance of the chart song.

I'm sure you'll agree that this is a real fun-packed programme but wait – we're only halfway through ...

2. Songwriting & Singing Week

During this hour session the focus shifts to singing and Songwriting. Your child will be taught how to write a song! They'll choose from a range of pop backing tracks, and using topic pictures the tutor will work closely with the group to write lyrics to the track; this is tremendously absorbing and will extend their creative writing and English skills. They'll learn about verses, choruses, rhyme schemes and a whole lot more, but that's just the start... Once they get their song together we move on to teach them how to sing it, breathing exercises, phasing, singing in tune – it's all here. And because of our 6:1 tutor ratio we can provide individual attention and enable your child to progress at their own pace through this educational and enjoyable section of the Poptrain programme. 30 minutes of the session is given over to this activity each fortnight, and gradually at their own pace, supported by our friendly and enthusiastic tutors, your child will have written and be able to sing their very own original pop song, which will sound great against our exclusively produced Poptrain backing tracks. But it doesn't end there ...

When the tutor feels that the group is ready, they'll book a recording session for them in a separate room and we'll make a professional music track with them. A real recording session and we're sure that all the students' family and friends would love to hear it. So, shortly afterwards we'll release it on our own special website: www.easylearnmusic.com for the world to hear.

But this is just the start of Poptrain...

We know that children love the pop world and so the second half of the Songwriting & Singing week will have them learning to sing the chart hit that they have been learning the dance choreography to – and at the end of the

hour, you are able to come back 15 minutes early and take a seat as your child joins with others to offer a mini-performance of the chart song.

With a programme as exciting and fun as this, your child will want to practise between lessons – but how do they do they remember all those dance moves, sing along to the Poptrain backing tracks and remember what the tutor taught them about songwriting?

Enter poptrain.co.uk This secure password-protected company website will give your child access to this friendly supportive environment that has videos of every dance move, the backing tracks, the topic pictures for songwriting and some hints and tips, to extend on what they've learned.

So there you have it-Poptrain ...