

Welcome to Bergen School of Music and fine Art

Instruction in music, dance, theatre and visual arts

for children and young people.

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www.bergen.kommune.no/kulturskolen

Apply before April 1st for enrolment in the next school year.

There are no initial tests excluding applicants.

The programme is for children and young adults from 6 to 20 years of age who are resident in the municipality of Bergen. The teaching starts after compulsory school hours.

By applying for admission to Bergen Kulturskole, you also agree to the following conditions: Admission is valid and economically binding for one term, and is automatically renewed for the next term. Our academic year consists of two terms (autumn and spring).

Cancellation of contract must be done before December 1st or April 1st, otherwise the term tuition fee must be paid in full.

For new pupils: Parent or guardian must notify us before August 1st if you decide to cancel your child's admission.

Bills for tuition fees are sent twice a year to the parent or guardian who has signed the application form. Should the fees remain unpaid, the council's debt-collection agency will be advised, and action taken. Paid tuition fees are not refundable. The normal tuition fee is kr 4000 for one year.

Low income families with an annual income of less than kr 360.000, - can apply for free tuition.

The School aims to provide a wide range of cultural activities using a variety of learning and teaching approaches within a clear framework, allowing for the different needs of individual pupils. We seek to achieve this by creating a positive working atmosphere through evaluating current school practices on a regular basis, and including a parent-teacher meeting each academic year.

Each pupil will have the opportunity to participate in a concert, show, exhibition or performance at least once a year as part of the school's curriculum. The school offers both individual and group lessons. Group lessons last a minimum of 30 minutes per week, whereas an individual lesson lasts a minimum of 20 minutes each week. We encourage our music students to play in ensembles such as bands and orchestras or singing in a choir.

The school can offer a number of hire instruments for beginners. You may hire a small size string instrument until you can play on a full-size instrument. We also have some wind instruments for hire, for a maximum of three years. Instrument hire is billed together with the tuition fee, twice a year according to current scale of fees.

Norwegians receive their music education in many ways, to a great extent as part of the official legislated state system of education, but also as part of the private and informal life of families and organisations. All children have music as a subject in the compulsory school system every academic year from 6- till 16. There is also music in Kindergarten.

Culture schools has recently received the status of being compulsory by law in every municipality. The law, however, does not say anything about the range of activity for these schools. One of the major questions at the moment is to what extent the culture schools should become an integrated part of the compulsory system.

Strongly influenced by the councils' persistent work throughout the years, the Norwegian Parliament in 1997 passed a paragraph in the new Education Act, Section 13-6: "All municipalities, either alone or in cooperation with other municipalities shall provide courses in music and other cultural activities for children and young people, organized in association with the school system and local cultural life".

From 16-19 young students can choose music, dance, theatre and visual art as an elective within the upper secondary school system, but access here is limited.

If you count all members of bands, orchestras and choirs lead by music school teachers, and take into consideration cooperation with compulsory schools, more than 150 000 children and youth are in one way or another related to the municipal music and art schools I Norway. Most of the children involved are between 7 to 16 years old. 20 percent of children in primary and secondary school are pupils in music and art schools.