

MUSIC · ADULT GUIDE

Classroom Percussion Starter Kit

Setup, storage, rollout for primaries

What to buy first — minimum viable kit

How to store



How to roll out — first 6 weeks of using new instruments

How to teach 'putting it away'

Minimum kit by school size

School size	Claves	Tambourines	Shakers	Glockenspiels	Recorders
Small (1-form, ~200 children)	30	15	15	1 class set (15)	30 (Y3-Y4)
Medium (2-form, ~400 children)	60	30	30	2 class sets (30)	60 (Y3-Y4)
Large (3-form, ~600 children)	90	45	45	3 class sets (45)	90 (Y3-Y4)

Things music coordinators wish they'd known

Glockenspiel mallets break first

Order spare mallets at the same time as glockenspiels. They snap from over-enthusiastic playing.



Recorders should be NUMBERED	Each child has a numbered recorder, marked with a small dot of nail varnish. Hygiene + tracking + accountability.
Tambourines without skins are still useful	When tambourines lose their skin, they're still usable as shake-only. Don't bin them.
Cheap is fine for KS1	Wooden claves, plastic shakers, basic tambourines — fine. Save budget for the higher-end glockenspiels and recorders that get used more years.
Buy multiple sets of the same instrument	Having 30 identical claves means you can run a full-class clave activity. Having 6 different things means chaos.
Avoid kazoos	Hygiene reasons. Schools that buy kazoos rarely use them after the first hygiene scare.
Triangles are surprisingly durable	If hung properly. The trick is the holder — many cheap triangles come without good holders.

