



# How to look after your Guitar or Ukulele

**Instruments covered in this guide:**

**Guitar  
Ukulele**

We hope you are enjoying playing your new instrument. Below you will find advice on how to care for your instrument and what to do if it breaks.

Do not try to play your instrument before your first lesson, it is very fragile and could get broken.

## CARING FOR THE INSTRUMENT

- Never leave your instrument next to a radiator, in direct sunlight or in a very cold room.
- Never leave your instrument in the car on hot days (even in the boot!)
- Always keep your instrument **in its case** when you are not playing it and always make sure it is securely closed!
- Getting an appropriate guitar stand is highly recommended. The guitar may then be placed on it temporarily, rather than leaving it leaning against a desk or sitting on a bed, etc. which is unsafe and risks damage to the instrument.
- You can store your instrument on its back or on its side but **never** with the strings face down.
- Do not try to tune the instrument until you have been shown how to do this! (If the pegs are stiff then ask your teacher for help)
- Strings may break from time to time. You will need to buy replacements from a music shop. Your teacher may be able to help re-fitting the string or the music shop may re-fit them in house. **Do not try to do this on your own until you have been taught how to.**

### Guitar & Ukulele

- Note that your guitar comes in a soft case that will protect it from light showers and scratching, **but nothing more serious!** Be very careful with it at all times, it is very delicate.
- Do not put music inside the guitar case (this can damage the instrument). Use a separate music folder, case or bag.
- In time your tutor may recommend you use a footstool. You can buy one from a music shop.

## REPAIRS

### For personally owned instruments

- 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 may be able to mend it for you. They will be able to give you advice on how and where to get it repaired. There are also some ideas on the [EMS website](https://www.ealingmusicservice.com).

The EMS website has lots of information regarding the EMS Instrument Hire Scheme, Music Events in Ealing, Ensembles available to join in the borough and advice on practicing.

[www.ealingmusicservice.com](https://www.ealingmusicservice.com)