

# Which Piano?

The answer to the question, *Which Piano?* is: it depends. Space, price and future use should all be taken into consideration. In this short document, I'll try to give you some basic information to help you decide which instrument to get. I've also suggested an instrument in each category. Please note, that this is only my suggestion – it is not a real recommendation as such.

Please come and see me if you'd prefer a face-to-face conversation.

Best wishes,

Michael Mappin, Music Teacher

## Grand Piano

You can spend more on one of these than you would do on a sports car. You'd need a large amount of space for one of these. It will last more than a lifetime, but will need regular tuning and maintenance. If your child is determined to have a career as a pianist, you might like to consider one of these.



Visit: [steinway.co.uk](http://steinway.co.uk)

## Upright Piano



From new, these can be as expensive as a grand piano, but you can always get a good deal with a second-hand one. They come in various sizes, and the sound quality can vary enormously. I suggest getting one of these from a music shop, as you will be guaranteed a certain minimum quality. If you buy one privately, you should take a pianist along to see it before making your decision, as the appearance of the instrument is not necessarily an indication as to how good it sounds. These will need regular tuning and maintenance, and will last a lifetime.

Visit: [plazapianos.com](http://plazapianos.com) (Hanwell based company)

## Digital Piano / Clavinova

These are possibly the best option for children who know that they definitely want to play piano for a number of years. They are smaller and lighter than upright pianos and have the added benefit of having headphone sockets so that a player can work away without causing too much disturbance. If you are getting one of these, you really must ensure that it has weighted keys and is touch sensitive, which will make it feel like an acoustic (grand or upright) piano. You can spend between £200 and £1500 on one of these. Aim, if possible, for the £300-£500 mark, and don't be seduced by flashing lights!



Examples: DP-10plus (£400); DP6 (£200); AXD2BK (£500)

## Keyboard

This is the cheapest option, and it also takes up the least space. However, if you plan to buy a keyboard, you should consider that, if your child decides to continue with piano lessons for more than a year or two, you will eventually need to upgrade the instrument. These keyboards are great for helping a student learn the notes and the basics of playing, but they are usually not touch sensitive and do not have weighted keys, so they feel quite different from a real piano. They also do not come with pedals like a real piano. You also will have to ensure that the keyboard is placed on a stand or table that is the correct height for someone playing.



Examples: RockJam 54-key Portable Digital Piano (£50); Yamaha PSRF51 (£80)