



# Guitar care and basic maintenance

## Guidance for Parents/Carers

With children not being able to see their regular music teacher we have put together a guide to help with understanding basic instrument care.

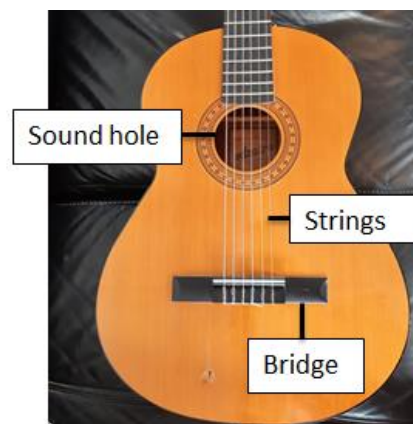
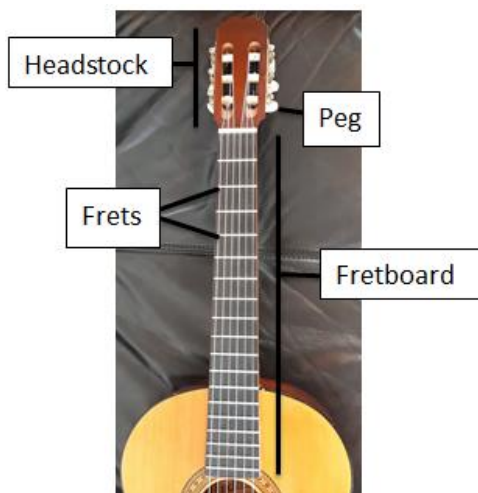
If you are in contact with the music teacher, they will also be able to help and advise you if you have any questions.

### When the instrument isn't being used

- Care should be taken when placing the instrument back in its case.
- Do not subject the instrument to extremes of temperature e.g. near radiators, in hot cars, very cold places, as this can damage the instrument.
- Always keep the instrument in its case when it's not being played to stop it from getting damaged.
- Make sure the case is securely fastened when you are transporting it.

### Cleaning

- When you have finished playing, wipe along the length of the strings with a soft cotton cloth to remove any dirt or grease.
- If necessary, the outside of the instrument can be cleaned using a duster – be very careful to not get the duster caught in the tuning pegs, bridge, or around the strings, as it can damage the instrument if it gets stuck.
- Don't use a commercial furniture polish, wood cleaner or soap and water as these may cause damage.

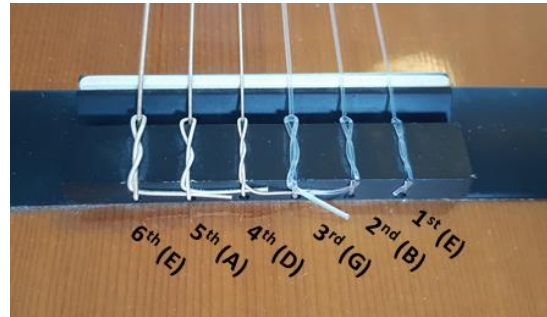


## How to replace a broken string

Over time the strings may snap or as they get old they might not stay in tune as easily and start to degrade.

If you need to change the string/s make sure you get the correct ones for the guitar you have, for classical guitars you will need nylon strings. These strings need to be knotted at the bridge rather than having a peg to hold them in place.

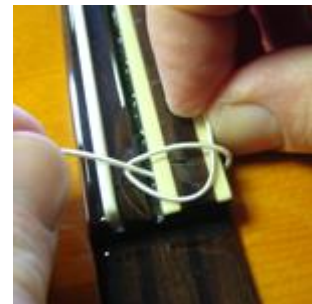
- Each new string will have a paper sheath saying which string it is. The sixth string is the thickest and the first string is the thinnest.



- Feed the string over the bridge then through the hole and feed it through so about two inches are sticking out.



- Take these two inches of string and bend it up over the bridge and to the right of the string. Loop the end around the bottom of the string and back on itself. Feed the end under and pull the slack through.



- Feed the tail under itself a second time. Pull the longer end that goes up to the tuners to tighten the knot you've just made.



- Pass the string over the tuner roller and then pass it down through the gap. Take it up from underneath and pass it up through the hole in the roller. Feed roughly 3 inches through the roller to give a tail.



- Fold over roughly 1/3 inch at the end of the tail. Hold the bit that passes over the top of the roller over the hole in the roller. Holding the folded over end of tail, use it to hold the string in place, push the tail and folded end back down into the hole it was passed through.



- Pull on the part that passes down the neck to make the loop around the roller tight.
- Keep the string tight as you gradually wind up all the slack. Guide it so that it winds against the previous winding to create a neat coil. Gradually wind up all the slack around the roller.



**There are plenty of videos on YouTube and step-by-step guides on the internet if you get stuck.**