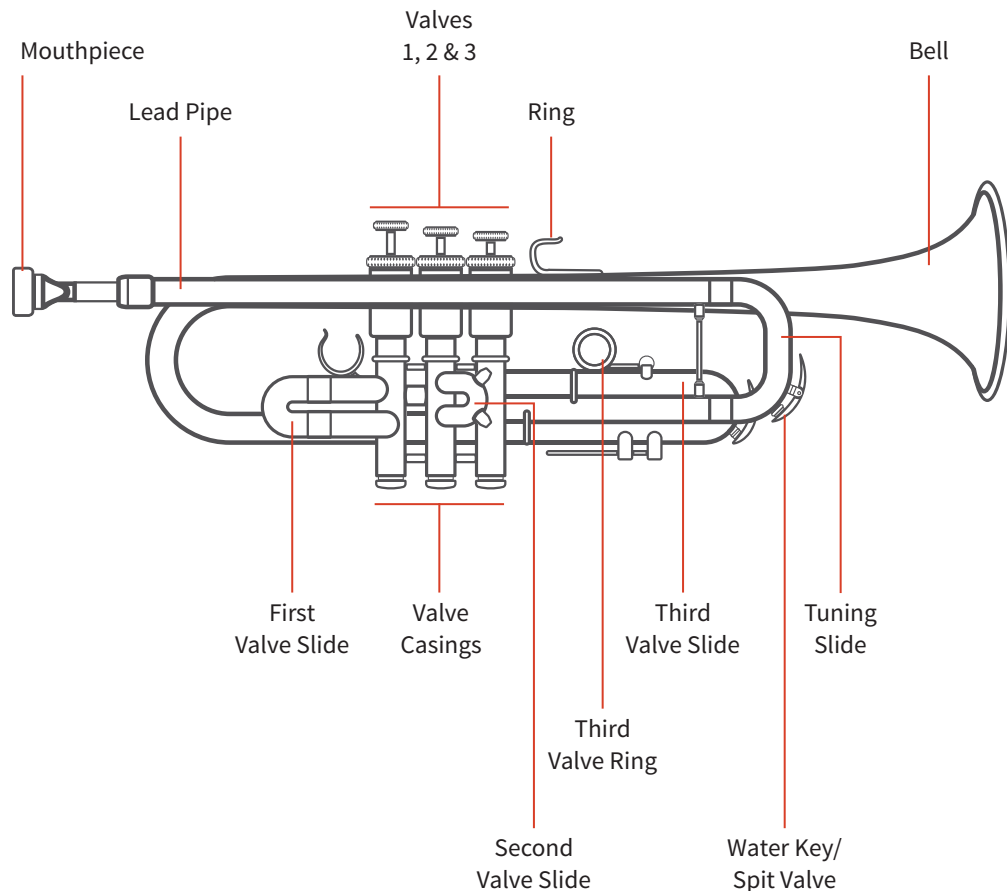


Diagram for guidance only



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Looking after your Wiltshire Instrument – for learners and Parents/Carers

As you know, we want to make instruments accessible to children and young people in a way that supports their participation and progression.

- **The instruments we can provide are serviceable and suitable for young musicians; they are not all brand new, shiny and pristine.** There are other places you can hire brand new instruments but they cost a lot more!
- **We are trying to make this scheme self-sustaining** – meaning that, over time, it should become able to re-invest in stock and continue providing instruments for young people regardless of any potential cuts in funding.
- **To make this work, we need those who use the scheme to support the ‘spirit’ in which it’s being run and to try to help it run as smoothly as possible.**

So, please look after your instrument and please READ THE GUIDANCE CAREFULLY taking care to get help with washing and cleaning materials and make sure you only use them for their intended purpose.

Brass Instrument Cleaning and Maintenance

As a condition of our scheme you are expected to ensure that your instrument is kept in working order and in the condition in which you received it. You will need to get your own lubricant for day-to-day maintenance, which is available from reputable music shops or online.



You should carry out the procedures in this leaflet roughly to the following timescale:

Trumpet, Cornet:	Every 3 months
Horn, Baritone, Trombone:	Every 4 months
Euphonium, Tuba:	Every 5-6 months

You may wish to clean the mouthpiece more often than this.

Any problems, don't panic! Don't force anything back together – just contact us!

General Day-to-Day Maintenance

The following tasks should be carried out whenever necessary:

Valves – all instruments except French Horn and Trombone

- Unscrew one at a time
- Wipe with a clean cloth
- Apply a small amount of valve oil to cover the surface of the valve
- Re-insert valve and turn it a few times to lubricate the inside of the valve casing
- Line up the valve guide with the slots inside the valve casing. For larger instruments this should be straightforward; for trumpets and cornets (any instruments where the spring is inside the valve) there is only one way the valve will fit, otherwise no sound can be produced – normally the smaller valve guide (white plastic bit) should go next to the small leadpipe (where you blow in). Larger instruments have a separate, loose spring – be careful not to lose this!
- Tighten up the screw and repeat as necessary for the other valves

One of the best valve oils is ‘Blue Juice’ – it is the most expensive, but lasts a long time. It is available from any reputable music shop, or online.

Valves – French Horn and Trombone

- Unscrew one at a time to expose the rotary mechanism
- Apply a small amount of rotary oil and move the valve so the oil lubricates the surface
- Replace the valve cap

Slide – Trombone only

- Carefully remove the outer slide from the inner slide
- Carefully wipe the inner slide with a clean cloth
- Apply lubricant according to the instructions provided on the bottle/tub.
This may include squirting water onto the slide after application of the lubricant

One of the best lubricants is ‘Slide-o-Mix’, which is a liquid lubricant. Slide cream can often be messy and less effective.

Polishing

Brass instruments rarely need cleaning on the outside, but if this becomes necessary (perhaps because you have been playing in the rain) a simple soft cloth will often suffice, and is all that is needed for lacquered (gold) instruments. For silver plated instruments, if you wish, you can use an ordinary silver polishing cloth or liquid silver polish, as you would on any silverware at home.

Regular Cleaning

The following tasks should be carried out regularly to ensure your instrument remains in a good condition, and plays to the best of its capability.

You will need:

- A bath (or sink for small instruments)
- Bore cleaning brush
- Mouthpiece cleaning brush
- Towel/soft cloth
- Lighter fluid (optional)
- Polishing cloth (optional)
- Lubricant (valve oil/slide cream/cork grease)

These items are available from any reputable music shop, or online.

Ensure you get the correct-sized bore cleaning brush for your instrument.

1. Fill the bath with warm water – no soap required
2. Take apart the instrument – remember which piece goes where!
3. Place the valves on a clean cloth – give them a good wipe – do not muddle the valves up! All other parts of the instrument (including the main instrument itself) can go in the bath, except the mouthpiece (see below)
4. Use a bore cleaning brush to clean inside all the slides and the main body of the instrument
5. Rinse and dry using a towel/soft cloth and leave the pieces on a tray to air dry inside
6. **(Optional)** Use a small amount of lighter fluid on the valves and slides to remove all excess grime
7. Once dry, reassemble the instrument, lubricating the valves and trombone slide in accordance with the procedure on the reverse of this page. Other slides, such as the tuning slide, should be given a light lubrication with cork grease. If you do not have any cork grease, a small amount of Vaseline can also work. These should be moved out and in each time you start/finish playing, to keep them free.
8. Test that the instrument works!

Mouthpiece cleaning

- Place the mouthpiece in a saucepan
- Pour hot water over the mouthpiece until it is covered – BE CAREFUL AND GET HELP IF YOU NEED IT
- Leave for a few minutes before removing and drying.
- Use a mouthpiece cleaning brush to clean the inside of the mouthpiece