**Music School Website – Ease-of-use and functionality test notes**

***Overview***

The following tests were made in order to confirm that the designed website was intuitive and easy to use, as well as fully functional with regards to the ‘most common’ paths of use for the site. A path of use is the sequence of pages navigated to and from during a user’s visit. These included:

* Information Browsing
* Lesson Booking
* Teacher Registration
* Instrument Hire

The tests also allowed the development team to receive feedback on from people outside of the immediate development group, as well as determine how a user browses and navigates through the website outside of the above pre-determined scenarios.

The data gathered in this batch of tests was qualitative in nature, as feedback received was descriptive on a case-by-case and user-by-user level. No two experiences were expected to be completely alike as it was assumed that all users have their own personal ‘preferences’ with regards to aesthetics and functionality, and that any feedback on the ‘style’ of the page would be reserved for further releases unless the issue was critical in nature (deemed having a direct negative impact, IE: a faulty link/navigation button).

Users were picked based on their age, competency with technology, and if they were within the target audience. Detailed user information was kept anonymous as a condition of agreeing to the testing, however the following can be revealed:

* User age ranged between 10 and 50 years’ old
* Users were of average competency (able to navigate the majority of common websites easily)
* Users were either active music students and teachers, parents and guardians, or general members of the public.

***Test One: General Usability***

For this test, a small group of ten users were asked to navigate freely across the site in order to test basic functionality and intuitiveness, and record their observations and findings in their own word during a time of five minutes to browse.

*Findings:*

From a functionality and intuitiveness perspective, users recorded that they found the site easy to use and navigate through, as well as structurally sound. There were remarks related to the page’s footer navigation bar size compared to the rest of the site on a few different pages, as well as doubts over the site’s ‘blue and white’ colour scheme for a school named ‘Pinelands’, and they will be kept in mind pending the school owner’s assessment of the page.

***Test Two: Pathway Usability***

For this test, the same six users were asked to navigate through a series of prescribed pathways. These pathways serve as representations of what an actual site user may do when they access the page:

1. Information Browsing – Home Page to either the About Us, Course Information or Teacher Information pages in any order, with repeated visits of different pages or sub-pages.
   1. Test was terminated when the user felt they had gained enough information for their needs.
2. Lesson Booking – Home Page to either Course Information or Teacher Information, then onto the subsequently linked Lesson Booking pages.
   1. Test was terminated when the lesson was booked
3. Teacher Registration – Home page to the Teacher Registration form page (with the user submitting a filled form for testing purposes).
   1. Test was terminated when the application form was filled and submitted.
4. Instrument Hire – Home Page onto the Instrument Hire information page then onto the hire application form.
   1. Test was terminated when the application form was filled and submitted.

Like the General Usability test, users were asked to record their observations and findings in their own words as well as record the amount of time taken to complete their pathway.

*Findings:*

The majority of users were able to complete each of their pathways in relatively short amounts of time with very little difficulty.

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| *Pathway* | *Average Time* |
| Info Browsing | Four minutes |
| Lesson Booking | Two minutes |
| Teacher Registration | Five minutes |
| Instrument Hire | Two minutes |

***Key Observations:***

The general consensus from these two tests showed the development team that the site is easy to use and intuitive in its current state, with no major faults with respect to both function and design of the website.

A common observation from the test group was the apparent lack of specific user accounts and user account control for students and teachers. This is something that the development team has planned for in a later release and comments regarding this were deemed as ‘out of current scope’ for these tests.