NMPAT

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Looking after your bow



Before you play, you should tighten the hair on your bow. Your teacher will show you how to do this in your lesson. The stick of the bow should always be bent inwards – towards the hair – even when it is tightened.

When you have finished playing, unwind the bow hair three or four times and clean the stick with a soft duster to remove any rosin dust. Don't touch the bow hair – the natural oils in your skin will stop the hair from sticking to the string and making a sound.

Keep your bow in a safe place – preferably in your instrument case. Don't leave it lying around as it could get damaged. If you have a soft cello case, always take your bow out first and put it away last.



From left to right:
violin bow, viola bow, cello bow, French double bass bow, German double bass bow

If a bow hair snaps, use a small pair of scissors to cut the hair off at the frog and tip. If you try and pull it out, you might lose all the hairs together!

Don't forget to rosin your bow, before you play, by stroking the bow across the top of the rosin – just as if you are bowing on the strings.







