NMPAT

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Violins, violas cellos and double basses

Using and looking after your string instrument

Your instrument is delicate and needs careful looking after. One of the biggest things to affect a string instrument is being too hot – so don't leave it in the sun or leaning against a radiator.

When you have finished playing, clean the rosin off the varnish with a soft duster. Don't use any chemicals, like furniture polish, because they will stop the bow from gripping the strings properly. Store your instrument in its case, with the lid shut.

What to do if…

There is no sound when you bow	Your bow probably needs some rosin
There are whistle squeaks and other nasty noises	It is probably not your instrument! Make sure you are bowing between the end of the fingerboard and the bridge, but not right on top of the bridge
You have loose or broken strings	Take your instrument to your teacher, who can fit a new string and tune it for you
The bridge falls down	Keep the bridge safe, in your case, so it doesn't get broken, and your teacher will be able to stand it up again in your next lesson
The chinrest comes off	Your teacher will be able to put it back on and tighten it for you