

My Music Progression Plan Guidance for Schools

What is ‘My Music Progression Plan’?

Wiltshire Music Connect’s ‘My Music Progression Plan’ provides a new way of recording and celebrating progress in vocal and instrumental lessons. It engages pupils in setting their own goals that are meaningful to them. It offers a means of recording and celebrating non-linear progress, and enables wider learning outcomes, such as improved resilience or teamwork, to be captured alongside musical learning. It signposts pupils to opportunities to play in ensembles, develop as composers, and explore careers in music.

Why should schools get involved?

The National Plan for Music Education places a strong emphasis on progression. It states that schools should develop ‘an informed understanding of the musical progression of their pupils, including their level of progress as instrumentalists and singers,’ and encourages schools to communicate to pupils and parents progression routes, local and national opportunities, routes into higher education, and opportunities for careers in music.

Wiltshire Music Connect’s new ‘My Music Progression Plan’ supports schools in achieving these aims, guiding pupils through five simple steps to plan for, achieve, and capture progression. Working through a colourful, easy-to-use template, pupils are encouraged to identify a personalised goal and the actions and support required to achieve it, with scope for input from their Associate Tutor, school music teacher, and parents. Pupils record their progress towards their goal and consider where this might lead in the future.

Who is responsible for the plan?

The majority of the plan is designed to be filled in by the pupil, with the Associate Tutor providing them with support in the form of discussion and guidance.

In Step 3 pupils consider how others can help them achieve their goal, and there is space here for other people to comment on anything they've done to help the pupil and the progress that has been made. We strongly encourage school music teachers to get involved by reading the plan and writing a few sentences in this section. Not only will this help you to understand the progress that your pupils are making in their vocal and instrumental lessons, it will also be very encouraging for pupils to receive feedback from another adult. You may wish to tie the 'My Music Progression Plan' in with your school's own awards system, giving extra recognition to what pupils achieve.

Given that the pupil, Associate Tutor, school music teacher and parents/carers are all encouraged to contribute at some point, please liaise with the Associate Tutor to decide how best to disseminate the plan. It can be printed and filled in by hand, or shared electronically as an editable PDF in line with the school's systems and policies. As well as supporting the progression of instrumental and vocal pupils, we hope that using this plan will strengthen communication between Associate Tutors, schools, pupils, and parents and carers.