

# Your child and music at transition

Tips for year 6 parents and carers  
from the team at Wiltshire Music Connect

40-100%  
discount on  
lessons and  
instrument hire  
Visit our website  
for details

## Moving from primary to secondary school is a new adventure.

There's a lot to think about: from uniform, to friendships, to new routines. Music lessons may be the last thing on your mind.

Yet this is the best time for your daughter/son to either continue with their existing music lessons or take them up for the first time. They'll grow in confidence and develop important life skills that will help them settle in.

Sadly, it's at this stage that some young people drop out of music lessons – and once they do, they may never return. That's something they may regret for a lifetime.



To make sure this doesn't happen to your daughter or son, we've put together a few tips.

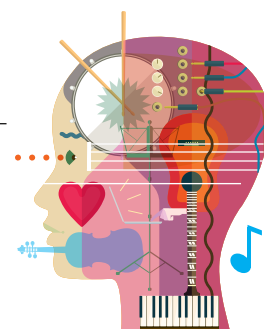
Other leaflets are available which tell you all about your child's entitlement to music at primary and secondary schools in Wiltshire (including discounts on lessons and instrument hire).

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here to support your child, you, and your child's school  
[www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/families](http://www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/families)  
[info@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk](mailto:info@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk)



search for **Wiltshire Music Connect**



# What you can do



## 1 If your child already has an instrumental/vocal tutor, ask them about lessons in secondary school

They may know which instrumental/vocal tutors teach at your child's future secondary school. Many tutors know each other – particularly if they're part of our Associate tutors' network. If you're keen to remain with your current tutor, ask them if they teach privately.

## 2 If they don't, now's a great time to consider learning. Ask about music at your secondary school parents evening or open day

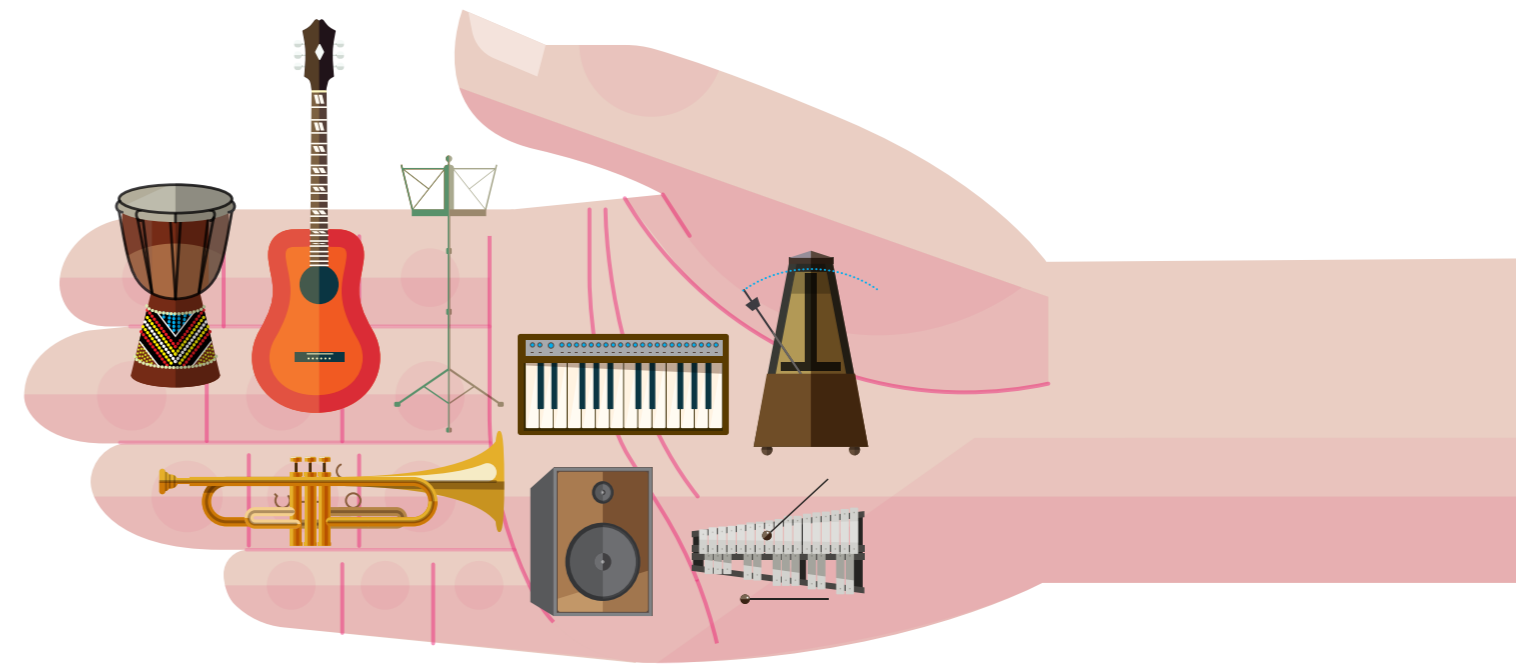
Often the head of music/performing arts, music teacher/s, or instrumental/vocal tutors will be on hand to answer any questions. You can also find out about subsidies from us for lessons and instrument hire.

## 3 Look for the music lesson information in your child's induction pack

Schools will usually ask you to sign up for music lessons the term before s/he starts secondary school. Leaving it too late may mean there are no spaces left or your child is allocated lessons in their second or third choice of instrument. Make sure to sign up as soon as possible.

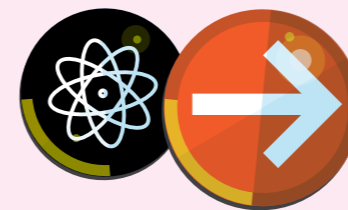
## 4 What if lessons on offer aren't appealing? Our Associates can help

Schools can't cater for everyone's preferences, but it's important that there's something that could spark your child's interest. If what's on offer at school isn't appealing, tell the school. Chances are that other pupils are feeling the same. Mention the Associates Directory on our website for approved tutors who teach a range of instruments and genres.



## 5 Find out about other opportunities to learn and make music through school, within and outside the curriculum

Ask at parents evening about how often curriculum music takes place, and for how long. Ask about other opportunities like lunchtime or afterschool clubs, performances, links with other organisations like local music centres, festivals, or groups/ensembles. Sign up for our e-bulletin for local and national opportunities.



## 6 Ask if they know about support for schools from Wiltshire Music Connect

We support more than 70% of Wiltshire schools with one or more of the following:

- finding suitably skilled and experienced tutors and providers
- subsidy for tuition fees and instruments to pass on to parents or carers
- access to instruments
- professional development – working with the school to bring music to life
- links to a wider musical community including through local 'clusters'



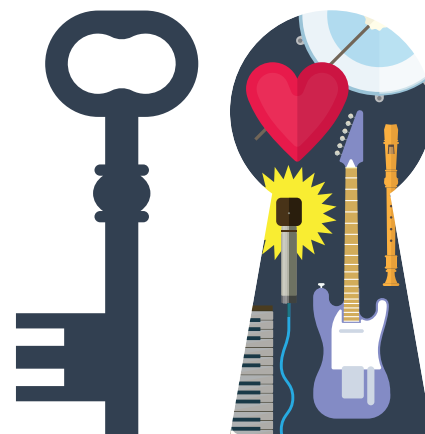
### What you can do:

Visit our website and sign up for our e-news for information about other opportunities, subsidies, how to choose a tutor, musical learning in primary and secondary schools, and more:

[www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/families](http://www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/families)

# Supporting your child in music:

an investment in unlocking their potential



Most people know that music is a 'good thing'. Research proves again and again that it is so important to children and young people's lives and futures.

## Why?

### Because music education...

#### increases confidence and self-esteem

which has a knock-on effect in all areas of their life and learning

#### improves health and wellbeing

reducing stress, increasing a sense of wellbeing and happiness

#### provides important life and social skills

such as listening, concentration, working as a team

#### develops creativity and self-expression

helping young people to think differently and develop their power of imagination

#### improves cognition, literacy and numeracy

recent neuroscience research has shown that children who learn an instrument have higher levels of cognitive capacity, specifically in their language acquisition and numerical problem solving skills

#### can be the key to unlocking potential

particularly for young people who are strongly creative, or who struggle to engage with other areas of learning

Find out more about the benefits of music to your child:  
[www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/why](http://www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/why)

[www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/families](http://www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/families)  
[info@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk](mailto:info@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk)



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We are very grateful to the following stakeholders who helped us to create these leaflets by providing invaluable feedback:

Jo Carr, Julia Drake, Nell Farrally, Vayia Malamidou, Roz Osborne, Marie Negus, Kim Rance, John Sandford, John Joy, Adam Varney, Claire Evans.

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Wiltshire Music Connect is the music education hub for Wiltshire: connecting all children and young people with musical opportunities. Because music is excellent for developing young minds.

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