
Act now – and together we can stand up for music in schools

A message to secondary school heads of music/performing arts – and senior leadership/governors who care about music
from the team at Wiltshire Music Connect

EBacc. Progress 8. Performance measure 8. Cuts to departmental budgets. Lack of trained music teachers.

It's a wonder that music and arts departments survive: and some haven't. Already, some schools in England are reducing curriculum music, or cutting it altogether.

The good news is, there are steps you can take, along with others, to stand up for music, raise the profile of your music department and reach and retain more students.

This leaflet tells you all about the support you can get in Wiltshire – and what you can do to take action.

Visit our website to find out more and sign up for opportunities and support.



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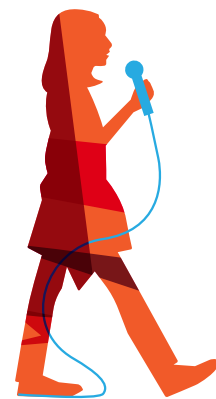
here to support your students, you, and your school
www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/whymusic
info@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk



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The bad news

You probably already know the bad news. But if you want to secure music's place in your school, it's helpful to be armed with the facts:



Uptake of music and arts at Key Stage 4 is declining

7.7% ↓

Decline in uptake of music GCSE, 2015/16–16/17

8.4% ↓

Decline in uptake of creative, artistic and technical GCSEs 2015/16–16/17

Sources: Analysis of government GCSE figures reported on www.artsprofessional.co.uk/news/devastating-decline-arts-schools-surges

www.baccforthefuture.com/news/84-decline-in-uptake-of-creative-artistic-and-technical-subjects-at-gcse

Schools are already starting to reduce their music provision

38% ↓

No longer include music as part of the compulsory timetable for year 9

Source: Survey of 700 schools
www.sussex.ac.uk/broadcast/read/39525

6% ↓

Decline in schools offering music GCSE 2012–2016 (from 85%–79%)

Source:
www.ism.org/news/changes-in-secondary-music-curriculum-provision-over-time-2012-16

70% ↓

Decline in schools offering BTEC music 2012/13 – 16/17

Source: Survey of 700 schools
www.sussex.ac.uk/broadcast/read/39525

There's been a worrying drop in young people's participation in music

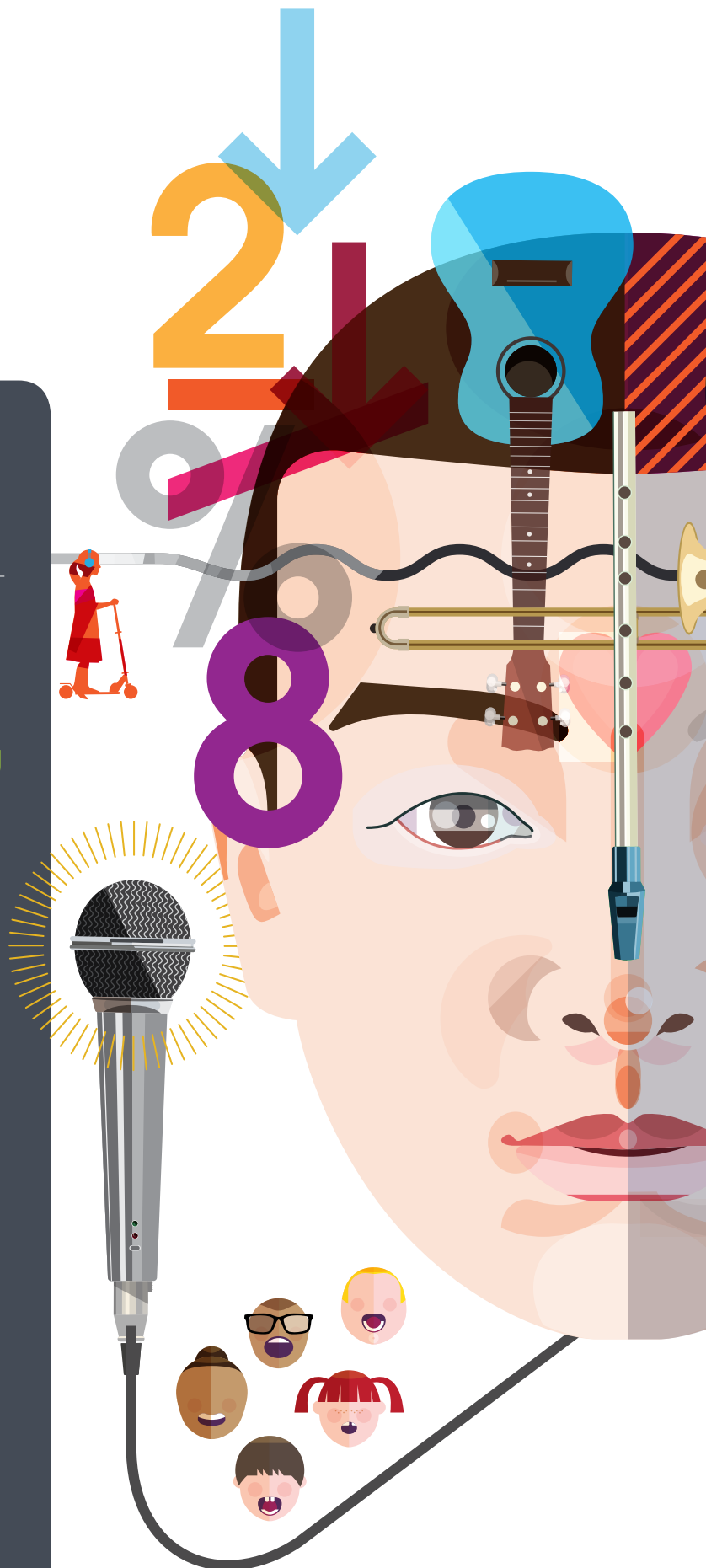
9% ↓

Decline in teenagers participating in music from 2015/16 to 16/17 – its lowest level since 2008/9

16% ↓

Since 2011/12

Source: Taking Part survey reported on www.artsprofessional.co.uk/news/fewer-teenagers-engaging-music-activities-ever



The good news:

There's an emerging movement to stand up for music in schools across the UK

You can influence what happens in Wiltshire by keeping informed and taking action

We're here to help you to develop and grow music in your school

through support, advice, and information; approved Associate tutors; subsidies for students experiencing financial hardship; help for departmental planning; and more



What you can do:

Sign up to our enews and follow us on social networks

Find us on Facebook and Twitter. Search for the Facebook group 'Secondary School Music in Wiltshire'. Stay informed of local, regional and national developments and support.

Come to your next cluster meeting

Find out about local opportunities, tell us about the support you need, and have a voice in music education in the county.

Get informed

Set aside just half an hour every so often to read our enews and links to our website.

Never before has music faced such a battle to justify its position in the education of our young people. Music teachers must work collectively to ensure that it remains at the forefront of our educational system so that all children are able to have an education, that at its core, has the art form that surrounds their everyday lives.

Peter Grant, Assistant Headteacher, The John Bentley School, Calne, Wiltshire

Stand up for music in schools – together we can make a difference

www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/whymusic
info@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk

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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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