

# TAKE NOTE!

## WILTSHIRE MUSIC CONNECT IS THE MUSIC EDUCATION HUB FOR WILTSHIRE.

In 2016 we commissioned a county wide consultation about music making with children and young people across Wiltshire. 769 children and young people of all ages, parents and carers took part.

Here are some of the key things children and young people want to say about music.



### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**It lets out a lot of stress.  
I do it because I enjoy it.**

Young people's awareness of how music contributes to their well-being was very high. They value music as a creative activity and as a way to express themselves. These views were consistent across all age groups

### WIDER RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES

**I believe music should involve  
more creation...**

Children and young people who are doing lots of music making outside of school have an appetite to do more. They want to explore a wider range of ensembles and performance opportunities and to try new instruments.

### TARGETED SUPPORT

**Music has helped me through  
a lot. It's also fun and takes  
me to a happy place.**

The needs and interests of young carers, those with health needs and young people with special educational needs are no different to other young people: they want to try new things, make more music and they say music contributes to their well-being.

### MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

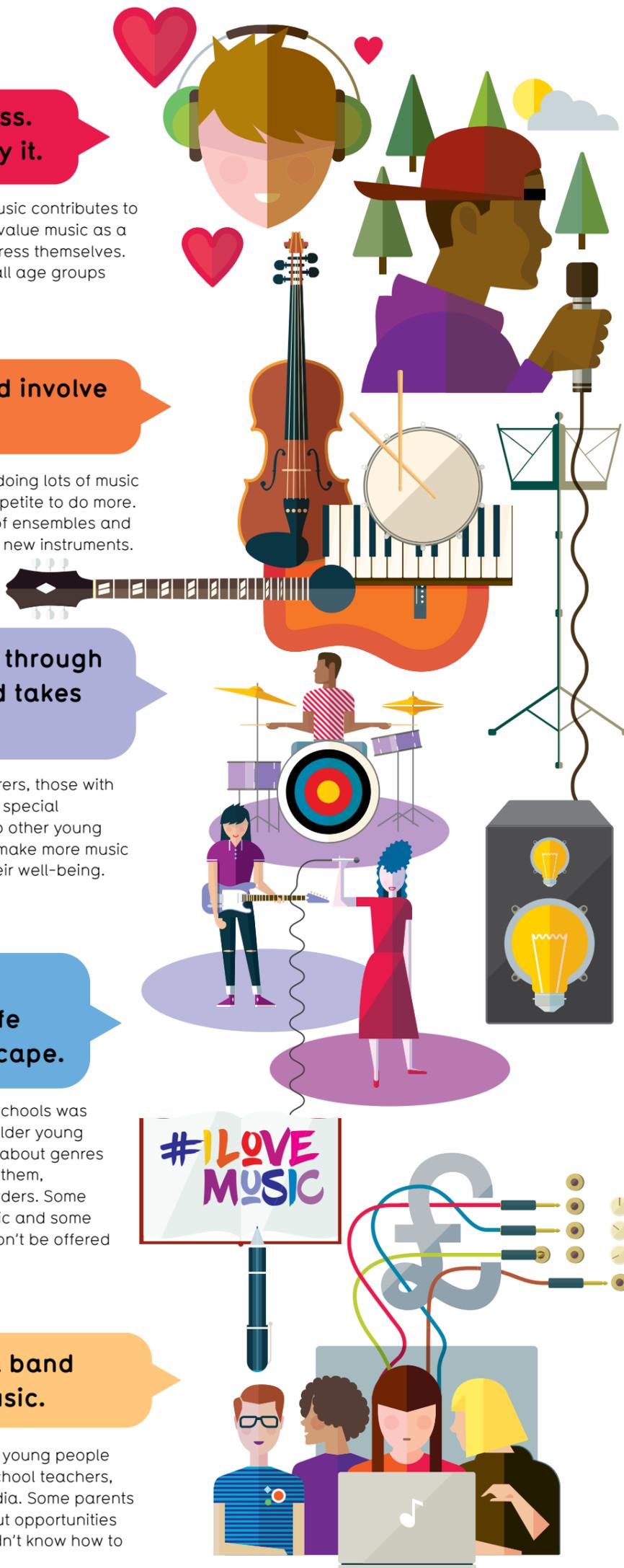
**#ilovemusic because  
homework ruins my life  
and music lets me escape.**

Music in schools, especially primary schools was spoken of positively although some older young people had issues with being taught about genres and instruments which didn't interest them, particularly classical music and recorders. Some were critical of school and GCSE music and some were concerned that A level music won't be offered if numbers are low.

### FINDING OUT ABOUT MUSIC

**I would like to be in a band  
and make my own music.**

The most common ways children and young people find out about music is from family, school teachers, instrumental teachers and social media. Some parents felt that they lacked information about opportunities which are available and that they didn't know how to find out.



### ROCK, POP, ALTERNATIVE GENRES AND OUT OF SCHOOL

**I will be the next Punjabi MC.**

Alternative music making opportunities including rock and pop genres are patchy. There are many areas where previous youth service provision has not been replaced by local providers. In some areas notably fewer primary age children are doing music outside of their school.

### SPACES AND PLACES TO PRACTICE AND PERFORM

**My goal is to be a professional  
Drummer. To have the money  
and space.**

Young people really value having places where they can make music informally with their peers, including school spaces during lunchtimes and other rehearsal spaces to play in bands. They also want more opportunities to perform to an audience.

### ALL GENRES OF MUSIC ARE IMPORTANT

**I never learned about other  
genres. It's not the issue that  
we learned classical music, it's  
just we only learned classical.**

The progression of young people whose musical interests are outside of western classical music and the school music curriculum, does not appear to receive the same support from music educators as young classical musicians receive.

### AFFORDABILITY

**Finding places to get equipment  
is hard and it's quite expensive.**

The greatest barrier to music making was financial. Most comments about finances concerned cost of lessons. The second most common issue was the cost of instruments and equipment. Other issues mentioned less frequently were the cost of rehearsal and recording facilities.

Want to know more?  
Interested in partnership work  
or support?

Please do get in touch with us or join our email newsletter list  
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