

# Your child and music at secondary school

A message to year 7 parents and carers from the team at Wiltshire Music Connect

40-100% discount on lessons and instrument hire  
See p2

## What if...



... a large number of scientific studies had found that there was one activity that could improve our cognitive function, help our memory systems to work, help us to learn language, help us to moderate our emotional states, help us to solve complex problems and help our brains to be healthier into later life?

... that activity, while beneficial if undertaken at any time during our lives, was actually found by scientists to be most beneficial if it was undertaken before the age of seven?

## What if that activity is music?

Dr Anita Collins  
Academic, researcher and music education advocate

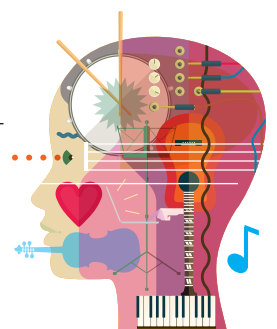
You've probably noticed that school has changed a lot since you were a child.

Pupils have more of a say in school life, teachers seem more approachable (and younger!), and there have been massive advances in teaching and learning, including through music.

Despite this, we're all aware of the increasing pressures to focus on a narrower range of academic subjects. This can have an impact on students' wellbeing and their futures.

That's why it's more important now than ever before that, as a parent, you have a say in your child's music education.

This leaflet tells you all about your child's entitlement to music in Wiltshire – and what you can do to make sure your child is able to unlock their potential through music.



wiltshire  
music  
connect

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**

# Did you know...?



## 1 Your child could have heavily discounted or free instrumental lessons

We provide 40-100% subsidy for lessons and instrument hire for pupils at primary and secondary age who:

- are looked-after in care
- are entitled to free school meals or eligible for pupil premium
- have special educational needs and disabilities
- can't afford tuition for other economic/social reasons

### What you can do:

If you may be entitled, contact your school and ask them to apply to us for subsidy. We also subsidise out-of-school lessons – see our website.

## 2 You can hire instruments from us – again they could be discounted/free

We have low rates, and subsidies for groups listed in 1. Local music shops have hire schemes that let you spread the costs.

## 3 Your child is entitled to learn music with her/his class, up to the end of year 9

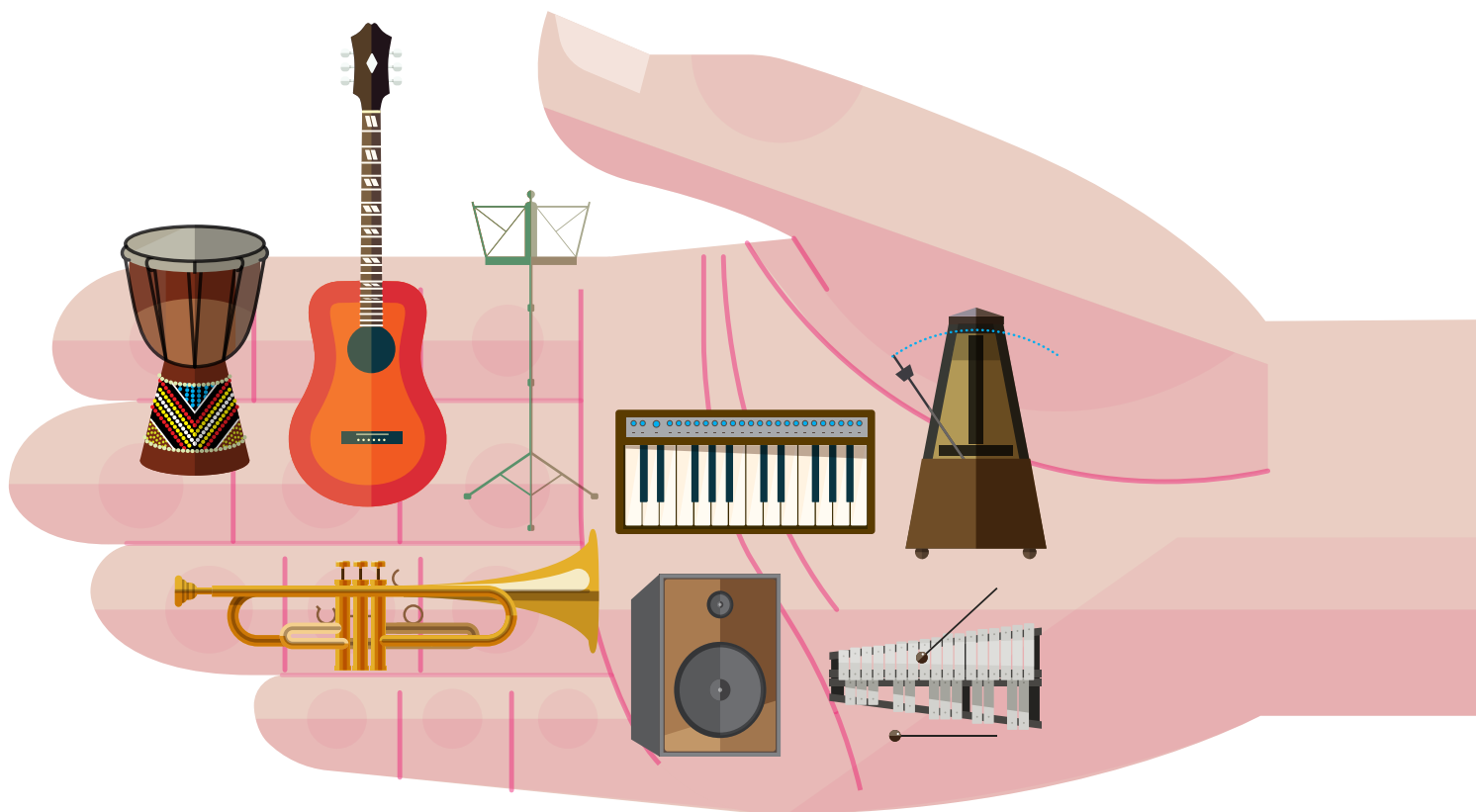
Like other subjects, music is part of the national curriculum – and although this doesn't apply to Academy and other independent schools, they do have to 'teach a broad and balanced curriculum'.

But music is at risk. Some schools are reducing the number of hours music is taught, removing it after year 7 or 8, or expecting non-musicians to teach music. Many no longer offer music as an option at year 10.

### What you can do:

Ask what music takes place in class and how often. Consider setting up a music parents and carers committee, or attending our cluster group meetings.

Ask your child's teacher or head if they're aware of the support available, or if they've received a leaflet from us. If not, let us know and we'll put one in the post to you or them.



## 4 Your child should be offered the chance to have lessons on an instrument/voice, one-to-one or in small groups in school

And although schools can't cater for everyone's preferences, it's important that there's something that could spark your child's interest.

### What you can do:

If what's on offer isn't suitable for your child, chances are other pupils are feeling the same. Mention the Associates Directory on our website for approved tutors who teach a range of instruments and genres. Your school may even want to consider an afterschool club.

## 5 Your child should be able to make music and perform as part of a group/ensemble - in lunchtime/ afterschool clubs or out of school

We also subsidise some out of school groups – see our website – and can help with costs (see 1).

### What you can do:

Ask your child's tutor about groups they could join or visit our website.

## 6 Your child can learn music in all sorts of ways, even if lessons aren't right for them

Online tutorials, tutor books, playing in a group, composing and song writing, music production and DJing, holiday activities and workshops, are all great ways to get involved in music.

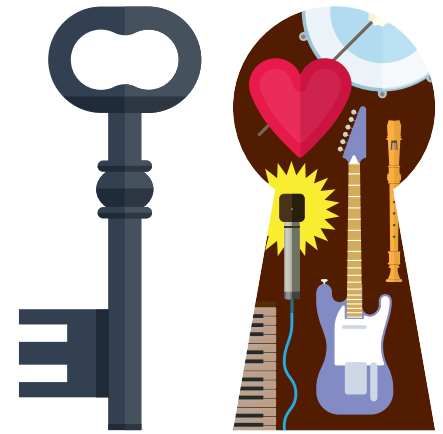
### What you can do:

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)

  search for **Wiltshire Music Connect**

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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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