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**Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for School Standards

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Mr James Gray MP  
By email: [jamesgraymp@parliament.uk](mailto:jamesgraymp@parliament.uk)

11 September 2020

Dear James,

Thank you for your email of 15 July, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Tony Spath of Wiltshire Music Connect, regarding music in the National Curriculum.

The Department believes that the Arts form an important part of a broad and balanced curriculum and are committed to ensuring that high quality music education is not the preserve of the elite, but the entitlement of every single child. This is why music is compulsory in the National Curriculum from the age of 5 up to 14 for all pupils attending state maintained schools, more information can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/ybyl2tt6>.

The Department are providing nearly £500 million of funding between 2016 and 2020 for a diverse portfolio of arts and music education programmes. £300 million of this funding is ring fenced to support music education and Music Education Hubs, which have grown to a network of 120 working with 89% of state schools to deliver curriculum lessons, instrumental teaching, choirs, orchestras and more. The Government funds other music, dance and drama programmes as well, including the National Youth Choirs and Orchestras, and also provides opportunities for young people to attend Saturday Arts Clubs and visit museums.

On 3 January 2020, the Department announced a further £80 million investment in Music Education Hubs for 2020-21 to ensure all children, whatever their background, have access to a high quality music education, including learning to play musical instruments and having the opportunity to play and sing in ensembles.

It may be of interest that The Department is also developing and publishing a non-statutory model music curriculum, working with music education experts and teachers. This will expand on the statutory programmes of study and ensure all pupils can benefit from diverse and informed lessons.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Neil', written in a cursive style.