

Suffolk County Music Service  
Our Ref: Service 2019  
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To: Headteachers of all Maintained, Academy and Free Schools

Dear Headteacher

**Music for Schools – supporting a broad and balanced curriculum  
Whole Class Ensemble Tuition and Instrumental and Vocal Tuition**

I am delighted to share details of our **Whole Class Ensemble Tuition** programme and **Instrumental and Vocal Tuition** services.

With your help and support, the music service has enjoyed working with over 9000 children and young people in schools and music centres across the County.

We have taken a fresh look at services, and with the help of your feedback developed more inspiring programmes and produced a simpler, and we hope clearer, outline of what we offer.

**Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) – Subsidised (33% per programme)!!!**

We are delighted to continue to offer this subsidised opportunity for children to learn a musical instrument as part of the Whole Class Ensemble Tuition Programme. WCET provides children and their class teacher the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, during curriculum time, for a full academic year. The programme is a key strand of the Government's *National Plan for Music Education* and a great way to ensure a whole cohort of children benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum!

Implicit in each programme is the aim that as many children as possible continue learning their instrument throughout their school years and beyond.

Schools familiar with the programme will know that each hour of WCET is packaged with 30 minutes of 'Play On' continuation time. The intention being that the 'Play On' element would also be passed on free at the point of access to pupils to enable as many children as possible to continue their studies the following year regardless of the ability to pay.

However, over time, and doubtless with best intentions to enable provision to continue in the current climate, some settings have opted to pass on some form of charge for 'Play On' (continuation). Coupled with this, selling a programme that includes an element to be delivered in the following academic and financial year, has caused much confusion over what is paid for and delivered when, so we are unwinding this arrangement over the coming year.

**A greater focus on performance - fun new repertoire and singing too!**

This year we increased the focus on performance for WCET classes and ensembles. Our tutors were asked to organise a concert at least once a term to celebrate children's achievements, raise the profile of music in schools and inspire our children with a lifelong love of music.

Supported using public funding by



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Five inspiring pieces, with differentiated parts to play **and** sing (singing is great for internalising music and key to good instrumental learning!) have just been especially arranged for the children by our talented music staff.

We look forward to hearing the children play their new pieces at school and welcoming parents to performances in our week-long WCET Festival (17 – 21 June) in venues across Suffolk.

### **Instrumental & Vocal Tuition – prices lower!**

As with all educational establishments, the music service is mindful of the need to streamline operations and make savings in order to continue to serve schools in the ever-changing educational landscape. We are delighted to not just freeze, but ever so slightly reduce the cost of Instrumental & Vocal Tuition.

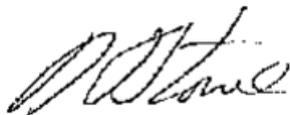
Instrumental & Vocal Tuition is for schools wishing to provide peripatetic 1-1 or small group lessons. This is very popular in both primary and secondary settings and supports instrumental and vocal learning from beginner to advanced levels. It can also be purchased to provide additional time to teach continuers from the WCET programme.

For any other services; for example, ensemble and choral direction, curriculum support, GCSE support, we have a flexible hourly rate to tailor provision according to your school's requirements.

Three Senior Managers with responsibility for North, South & West Suffolk, are dedicated to building relationships with schools in their area. They will shortly be in contact to introduce themselves. In the interim please don't hesitate to initiate discussions by contacting the music service by phone: 01473 263400 or email: [county.music.service@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:county.music.service@suffolk.gov.uk) to take forward any aspect of music provision.

Whether you are a school which has worked with us for many years, one of the growing number of schools returning to the service, or a school that has its own in-house provision, we are here to help and support in any way we can. Just pick up the phone or drop us an email and we will do our best to help, support and connect you to music services that work for you.

Yours faithfully



David Stowe  
Head of Suffolk County Music Service  
Directorate of Children and Young People's Services