

This Newsletter is designed to keep Wiltshire Associates updated with developments, activities and training opportunities

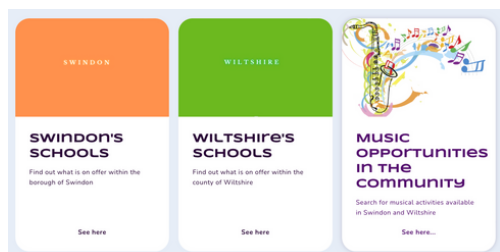
Edition: 2 – February 2025

Local updates:

1. Website Development Update

We're excited to share progress on our new website, which will streamline access to information and subsidies for First Access and instrumental/vocal programs. The site features three main sections:

- Swindon Schools
- Wiltshire Schools
- Music Opportunities in the Community



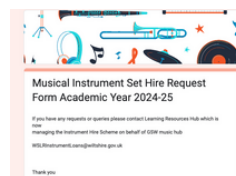
Our current focus has been the **Wiltshire Schools section**, and we're exploring ways to create valuable connections across all areas.

Important Note: The website's URL will be changing soon to: gswmusichubswindwils.org.uk, and we'll be developing a new logo that aligns with the existing GSW branding.

2. Instrument Access Made Easy

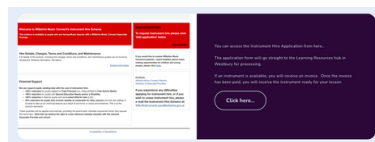
We've implemented two convenient ways to access instruments:

- School Instrument Sets: Apply through hiring form: Schools' Instrument Hire Form [HERE](#)



We are developing the App to include First Access subsidy requests and this will also include school instrument hire for schools making this Google form redundant.

- Individual Instrument Hire: Direct access to the Learning Resources Hub through SpeedAdmin (logo update pending)



- The Instrument hire/loan scheme for pupils / parents/carers can be found [HERE](#)

See how the website is developing [HERE](#)

Associate Scheme in Wiltshire

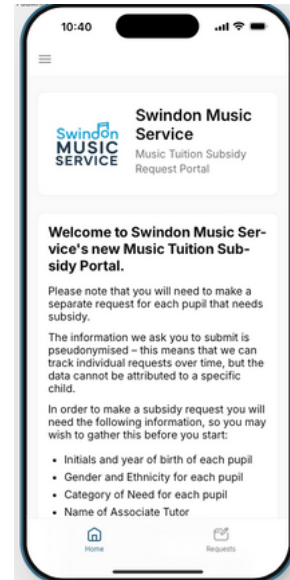


The Associate scheme Directory is now up-and-running and can be found [HERE](#)

The schools subsidy portal is complete and is opening again. We will keep it open subject to funding availability - once the budget has been allocated for the year, the portal will close.

New for 2025-26

First Access subsidies will also be available through the same portal for the new academic year making the process for schools much easier and simpler for them - seeing the subsidy requests all in the same place



Music Tuition Subsidy Portal

Home Tuition **First Access**

Guidance for schools - Safeguarding, DBS checks etc

We can offer a list of associates confirming that they had been checked out by Swindon Music Service to a basic level to be admitted to the approved providers list.

Swindon Music Service Working with music tutors in Wiltshire schools - important safeguarding information for SLTs, DSLs, Music Leads and Business Managers: **January 2025**

1. Working with music tutors who are members of GSW Music Hub (through Swindon Music Service) Associate scheme - what you should know.

Using Associates to deliver music tuition means that schools and families are using tutors and leaders who have been, and continue to be, subject to a vetting and checking process. This includes applications, initial interviewing and assessment of their skills and abilities.

It also means schools and the pupils they work with have access to:

- First Access subsidies
- Tuition subsidies
- Instrument Hire scheme

Further information is in the schools' section of our website: [HERE](#)

Wiltshire Council and GSW Music hub (through Swindon Music Service) remind all schools that Associates are freelance individuals or independent organisations.

As such, it remains the responsibility of your school to check that any Associates you are working with meet your school's safeguarding requirements and other quality related matters.

We encourage all schools in Wiltshire to use Associates as the scheme provides an extra layer of quality assurance, safeguarding and supports the development of a sustainable community of providers.

Find out more here: [HERE](#)

2. School Guidelines for Associate Music Tutors

School Vetting Requirements

Mandatory Checks

Schools should complete the following minimum vetting checks for all Associate tutors:

- Verify and check identification documents on each school visit

- Review original DBS certificate upon first school presentation and verify DBS update service status annually

- Confirm the tutor has an active profile in the Swindon Music Service Associate Directory

- Obtain signed disqualification declaration (primary schools only)

Our advice to schools is that they then treat Associates as any other self-employed member of staff. The contract is with the school/parent not Swindon Music Service therefore it is the school's responsibility. See our flyer with the advice from Wiltshire Council and Swindon Music Service [HERE](#)

A reminder to Associate that this is exactly the same process that happened through Wiltshire Music Connect

CPD Needs Analysis

We will be sending out a Survey Monkey form soon to ascertain what CPD needs there will be for Associates for the remainder of the academic year.

School Cluster Coordinators



There are 14 Clusters in Wiltshire.

Why Music Clusters?

The concept of music clusters was developed to cope with the sprawl of rural Wiltshire, and a need to consider bringing together musical communities at a more localised level.

The aim of Music Clusters is to improve children's progress and engagement through:

- Increasing the skills, knowledge and confidence of educators in providing music learning in their setting
- Providing access to wider range of opportunities, experience and resources
- Enabling support in the development of music education to be targeted more

Our Music Clusters: Building Vibrant Musical Communities

Wiltshire's 14 Music Clusters serve as dynamic local hubs, each bringing together schools, tutors, venues, and musical organisations to enrich our children's musical education. By operating at this local level, we're able to provide targeted, effective support that truly serves each community's needs.

Through these clusters, we're working to enhance children's musical journey in two key ways:

1. Supporting educators by building their skills, knowledge, and confidence in delivering high-quality musical education
2. Creating broader access to diverse musical opportunities, experiences, and resources

Each cluster is guided by a dedicated part-time Cluster Coordinator who:

- Connects local musical communities
- Assesses schools' musical education needs
- Provides valuable guidance to teachers
- Coordinates local musical initiatives

Cluster Coordinators & email addresses:

Amesbury - Emily Askew AskewE@smscio.co.uk

Bradford on Avon - Nicola Screen. ScreenN@smscio.co.uk

Calne and Melksham - Val Weston. vweston@smscio.co.uk

Chippenham - Steph Farr. FarrS@smscio.co.uk

Devizes - Julia Falaki. FalakiJ@smscio.co.uk

Downton - Louise Jordan. JordanL@smscio.co.uk

Marlborough & Pewsey - Steph Farr. FarrS@smscio.co.uk

Mere & Tisbury - Nicola Screen. ScreenN@smscio.co.uk

North Wiltshire - Julia Falaki. FalakiJ@smscio.co.uk

Tidworth - Louise Jordan. JordanL@smscio.co.uk

Trowbridge - Nicola Screen. ScreenN@smscio.co.uk

Warminster - Emily Askew. AskewE@smscio.co.uk

Westbury - Emily Askew. AskewE@smscio.co.uk

Contact the local Cluster Coordinator if you need assistance promoting your service in their area

Want to influence how we work?

We are looking to set up the following:

Strategic Sub-Group for Swindon & Wiltshire

Swindon & Wiltshire Strategic Sub-Group!

Help shape the future of music education in our region! We're establishing a Strategic Sub-Group for Swindon and Wiltshire to develop local strategies and provide valuable input to the Independent Hub Board. Under the leadership of Swindon Music Service, this initiative presents an exciting opportunity for community involvement.

We're actively seeking passionate volunteers from across the county to contribute their voices and ideas to our strategic direction. Your input will be invaluable in helping us build a stronger, more vibrant musical community.

Working Group for Delivery Partners Swindon & Wiltshire

Delivery Partners Working Group - Join Us!

Help shape the future of music education in Swindon & Wiltshire! We're establishing a working group focused on developing inclusive music-making opportunities for children and young people across our region. This group will primarily focus on exploring joint working opportunities; First Access; Continuation Routes for children and young people; Workforce CPD offers.

We're currently seeking:

- -Representatives from music delivery organisations based in Swindon & Wiltshire
- 1-2 Individual Wiltshire Associates to represent our Associate tutors
- 1-2 Music Tutors from Swindon

This is your chance to make a real impact on music education in our community. If you're passionate about music and willing to volunteer your expertise, we'd love to hear from you.

Ready to get involved? Contact Peter Clark at pclark@smscio.co.uk to learn more about this opportunity.

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LOCAL TRAINING

Trinity Certificate for Music Educators (Level 4 Qualification) - Apply for 2025 Course Now!

What is the Trinity Certificate for Music Educators (Level 4)?

Available in the UK, the Trinity Level 4 Certificate for Music Educators (Trinity CME) is designed for music educators who work with children and young people. It's supported by a flexible programme of learning and is offered by a network of Trinity CME centres.

Who's it for?

The Trinity CME course that Gloucestershire Music is running is suitable for anyone who works as a music educator with children and young people, including:

- instrumental and vocal teachers
- early years and primary teachers
- community musicians and workshop leaders
- professional musicians who undertake education work

What does it include?

The Trinity CME offers bespoke CPD frameworks to help develop the needs of each candidate and also assesses learners in:

- understanding how children and young people learn music
- planning, facilitating and evaluating their learning
- reflective practice and professional development
- promoting children and young people's positive behaviour
- equality, diversity and inclusion
- safeguarding

Gloucestershire Music is a CME approved centre and is offering a course. For Swindon and Wiltshire we have 4 subsidised places where the first 4 to sign up can apply for £400 grant towards the fees. Find out more

[HERE](#)

NATIONAL UPDATES

Training & Events with Music Mark

• **Integrating Arts Award into Music Teaching: Practical Ideas for Teachers, 19th February, 10.30am - 12pm**

Are you looking to bring fresh ideas and accreditation opportunities into your music programmes? Join us and Arts Award for an webinar tailored to music educators and those anyone delivering Arts Award in a music setting. Discover how Arts Award's flexible framework can enhance your music lessons and activities, helping young people develop new skills, explore creativity, and gain recognition and qualifications for their achievements. [Sign up now.](#)

Empowering Teachers, Amplifying Voices: Supporting Generalist Teachers in schools with ABRSM Voices, 4th March, 4pm - 5pm

Join Jenny Trattles and Charles MacDougall from ABRSM Voices for an interactive and thought-provoking session designed for Music Hub staff. This webinar will explore practical strategies for building meaningful professional relationships with generalist teachers, directly linking these approaches to the ambitions of the National Plan for Music Education.

[Register here](#)