

Wiltshire Schools Newsletter

This Newsletter is designed to keep Wiltshire schools updated with developments, activities and funding opportunities

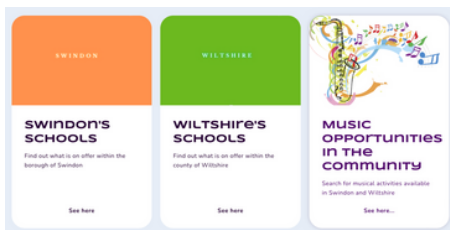
Edition: 2 – February 2025

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.

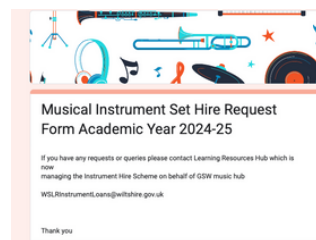
Important Note: The website's URL will be changing soon, and we'll be developing a new logo that aligns with the existing GSW branding.



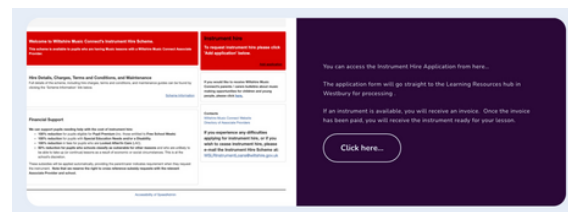
2. Instrument Access Made Easy

We've implemented two convenient ways to access instruments:

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



- 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](#)

The Platform colour will change and Wiltshire Music Connect will be removed once we get permission from SpeedAdmin and Wiltshire council

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 initiative

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

Salisbury & Wilton - Emily Askew. AskewE@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

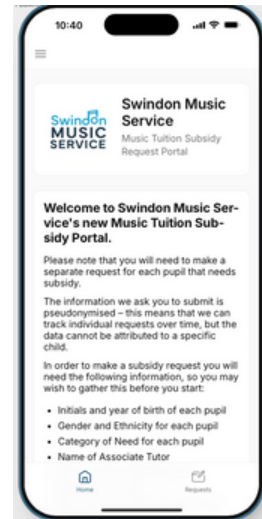
Associate Scheme in Wiltshire



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

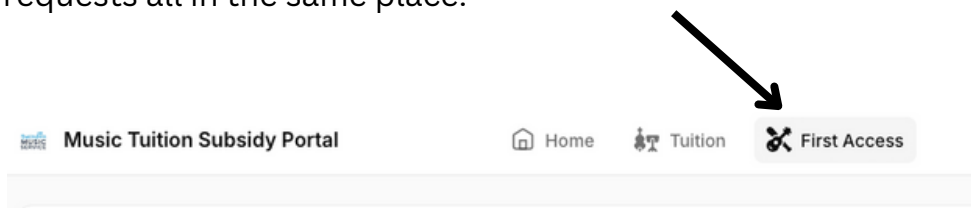
The schools subsidy portal is complete and is opening again. We will keep it open until the end of February and then look to reopen it again in term 5&6 as is the normal procedure - Please also be aware that, once the budget has been allocated for the year, the portal will close.

If you do not have a log-in, email us and we will arrange for you to get one!



New for 2025-26 Academic Year

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 - seeing the subsidy requests all in the same place.



Guidance for schools - Safeguarding, DBS checks etc

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

- 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 schemeFurther 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](#)

- 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)

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

Our advice to schools is that they then treat them 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 here our flyer with the advice from Wiltshire Council and Swindon Music Service [HERE](#)

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.](#)

Charanga News



No internet? No problem. Teach music anywhere with Charanga.

Out now: A poor internet connection, or no connectivity at all, can disrupt a Charanga-supported music lesson, so we've developed a new app for Mac, PC, iOS, and Android devices making it easy to download and use resources offline.

- No internet connection is required when you're teaching.
- Your downloaded resources work as they do online.

Click [here](#) for more information and to download the app [HERE](#)