



School Music Education Plans Guidance

Introduction
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A Music Education Hub is a partnership of organisations including schools, which enables high quality music provision for all children and young people. All partners have a mutual responsibility for this.

The hub lead organisation is responsible for ensuring that mechanisms are in place for evaluating local needs and agreeing local delivery plans.

Schools must be encouraged to adopt a strategic approach to music education where sustained activity is firmly established to enable continued progress. When a school and its leadership team engage with a Music Education Hub and delivery plans, pupils will benefit.

The National Plan for Music Education

The NPME clearly sets out the wider partnership of a hub. Whilst fully recognising the wider purview of a hub, this guidance focusses on the relationship between the hub lead and all schools across a hub.

There are recurrent references to the vital role a hub should play in ensuring high quality music teaching in schools in the NPME.

- *'Head teachers and governors, not hubs, are responsible for the quality of the music education in schools (including that delivered by non-school staff). However, schools are, or should be, key partners within hubs. As part of a hub's role, hubs have a responsibility to challenge and support schools over quality. Schools do not always have sufficient expertise in music education to be sure what to do for the best. We are asking hubs to fill that expertise gap.'*
- *'... new music education hubs covering every local authority area, helping improve the quality and consistency of music education across England, both in and out of school.'*
- *'...hubs and schools holding one another to account against locally developed standards for delivery of music education..'*
- *'All schools should provide high quality music education as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Schools will want to review how they do this in light of this National Plan, and following proposals from the National Curriculum review early in 2012. **Schools, however, will be expected to provide high quality music education.**'*
- *'Schools cannot be expected to do all that is required of music education alone: a music infrastructure that transcends schools is necessary. **Building on the work of local authority music services, this will be provided by music education hubs...**'*
- *'In the context of a needs audit, **hubs and schools (or clusters of schools) will work together to determine what high quality music education looks like in a local context, and who will be responsible for the delivery of each aspect.**'*
- *'...hubs to account for the services they arrange, and at the same time hubs will be able to challenge and support schools to improve their music curriculum.'*
- *Through consultation and discussion, the hub will need to build its shared local vision and 'offer' to schools based around each school's needs and ethos. This may include helping schools with broader school improvement through music.'*

Through their School Music Education Plan, a hub will [Ofsted 'Music in schools: what hubs must do' survey report, recommendations]:

- promote themselves with schools as confident, expert leaders of music education in their areas, not simply as providers of services;
- expect and secure that all schools engage with them and the National Plan for Music Education;
- have regular supportive, challenging conversations with each of their schools about the quality of music education for all pupils in that school;
- support all schools in improving the music education they provide, especially in class lessons, and support them in evaluating it robustly;
- offer expert training and consultancy to schools, which supports school leaders and staff in understanding what musical learning, and good progress by pupils in music, are like;
- ensure that their own staff and partners are well trained and ready to do this work;
- spend a suitable proportion of their staff's time on working with school leaders strategically, alongside their work in teaching pupils directly;
- publicise their work effectively to schools and explain how it can contribute to school improvement;
- facilitate school-to-school support as appropriate;
- promote high-quality curriculum progression in schools and ensure that hubs' work in schools is integral to this;
- robustly evaluate the impact of their own work on pupils' music education.

Arts Council is clear that a School Music Education Plan is part of the hub's wider needs analysis and business planning. Arts Council England will require assurance that each hub has an effective plan in place by April 2014 that demonstrates effective engagement with all schools within a hub by 2016, as a condition of funding.