

Hertfordshire Music Service Financial Support September 2021- July 2022

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/remission



Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS) operates a generous financial support programme in order to ensure all its services remain inclusive and accessible to all young people in Hertfordshire. HMS believes that cost should not be a barrier to accessing high quality instrumental music tuition.

All financial support options are available to pupils who live in Hertfordshire, attend a Hertfordshire state-maintained school or academy and learn with an HMS instrumental teacher. A pupil will only be able to receive **one** level of financial support from HMS.

Full details on the HMS financial support offer, who is eligible and how to apply, are available [here](#).

Eligible families must apply for help before lessons are due to start as funding cannot be backdated or applied retrospectively. Before funding is confirmed by HMS, all pupils must sign up to the HMS music learning agreement. This will ensure all financial support targets genuinely committed pupils and families. Ongoing financial support up to July 2022 is reliant on evidence of good attendance and effort in lessons. HMS also intends to ensure pupils have access to instruments on loan as appropriate.

The application window for applying for new or continued financial support will initially be from Wednesday 9th June to Wednesday 30th June 2021. Schools can refer pupils in this period as well.

Families can still apply after this date, but if applications exceed the available funding, HMS will operate a waiting list for financial support, and we will contact the families when we can allocate financial support.

We anticipate a high demand for help with fees for lessons starting in September 2021. All applications for financial support will be considered in line with the HMS Equality, Diversity and Inclusion action plan and our commitment to ensuring access to inclusive music making across the whole county.

Who is eligible for financial support, and what does HMS offer:

In 2021-22, HMS maintains three levels of financial support for Hertfordshire pupils: Level 1 100% and Level 2 50% financial support (both are means-tested for eligibility); Level 3 25% financial support (non-means tested for eligibility).

1. Level One Support: 100% Financial Support

- Pupils in Year 3 or above who currently receive Universal Credit, or other benefits that entitle you to free school meals, can apply for financial support of 100% of their instrumental lesson fees, up to the value of a 20 minute individual lesson. (Please note that pupils who receive protected Free Schools Meals or Pupil Premium until 2023 are not automatically entitled to help with music fees - you will still need to apply for help with music fees each year to show what benefits you currently receive in order to be considered).
- Pupils also receive a suitable instrument on a long-term free loan, as long as they are in receipt of HMS financial support at this support level.

- Free membership of an ensemble or choir is also available as part of this support level.
- Children in the care of Hertfordshire County Council (Children Looked After) are eligible for Level One Support (100%), and schools or social workers can make referrals to music.remission@hertfordshire.gov.uk

2. Level Two Support: 50% Financial Support

- Pupils in Year 3 or above in receipt of certain benefits can apply for financial support of 50% of their instrumental lesson fees up to the value of a 20 minute individual lesson.
- New pupils will receive a suitable instrument on a free loan for one year.
- Pupils at this support level can receive 50% reduction in a membership fee of an HMS ensemble or choir.

3. Level Three Support: 25% Financial Support

In order to support families facing short term financial hardship, HMS is making £80,000 of Arts Council funding available for this non-means tested financial support fund.

- Pupils of any age can apply for a 25% non-means tested financial support for instrumental lessons by completing an application form, including a clear understanding of their level of need.
- Schools can refer the parent to the application or complete an application on behalf of a family.

HMS financial support is now extended to cover **GCSE/A Level music tuition** for pupils who are eligible for financial support.

For more details about the scheme, please go to www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/remission or email music.remission@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Hertfordshire Music Service
1st June 2021