

# PRIMARY GRANTS 2024-25

## GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND PROVIDERS

### INTRODUCTION

As lead partner and fund holder for the music education hub (MEH) in Cheshire East, the Love Music Trust has a responsibility to support all state schools in the borough to deliver the aims and objectives of the [National Plan for Music Education: The Power of Music to Change Lives](#) (NPME2). To do this effectively, the Trust receives an annual grant from the Department for Education via Arts Council England, who monitor the work and activity of the Trust. The NPME2 sets out three aims and five strategic functions (pages 48-49 of NPME2) which encompass delivery in and beyond schools.

We continue to define music delivery in schools by these four roles:

1. First Access (*sometimes referred to as Whole Class Instrumental/Ensemble Teaching or Wider Opportunities*)
2. Ensembles
3. Progression
4. Singing

The Love Music Trust's agreed approach for First Access and Progression is to make grants available to all primary schools on an annual basis.

### WHAT IS 'FIRST ACCESS'?

First Access is Whole Class Ensemble Teaching. This is defined in NPME2 as 'A programme of teaching on musical instruments delivered to a whole class, learning and playing together.'

To be eligible for a First Access Grant from the Trust, a project must:

- give all children in at least one year group the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.
- give children the practical use of their own musical instrument for the duration of each session.
- run for a minimum of ten consecutive weeks (notwithstanding staff illness, school closures, trips etc.) in sessions which are a minimum of 40 minutes in duration.



Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



National Foundation for  
Youth Music



Hub Partner  
Member

---

## WHAT IS 'PROGRESSION'?

Progression is where pupils have the opportunity to progress their musical education after the original First Access programme, such as in a smaller group developing their practice on the same or a different instrument.

The Progression Grant must:

- support pupils who have previously participated in a First Access programme to continue to learn an instrument.
- be spent on provision which the school provides itself or purchases from an external provider; it cannot be claimed where parents/carers make payment directly to a third party.

Here are some examples of how schools have chosen to apply their Progression Grant:

- Small group / individual tuition.
- Instrument hire for pupils continuing into small group / individual lessons.
- A school ensemble, as long as the group is musically accessible to pupils who have completed a First Access programme.
- A First Access programme which is delivered to two (or more) year groups. This is particularly helpful for smaller schools (with smaller budgets) who have mixed year group classes as they can effectively 'pool' the First Access and Progression Grants. It cannot, however, be claimed for a First Access programme which is delivered to the same year group for two or more terms.

We are happy to consider all proposals that genuinely support as many children as possible to carry on with their instrumental learning. If you are unsure whether your proposed programme meets the eligibility criteria, please speak to a member of the Love Music Trust or check with your chosen provider.

---

## WILL OUR SCHOOL NEED TO PURCHASE INSTRUMENTS?

No. The Love Music Trust makes instruments available at no cost to any Cheshire East school for use on a First Access programme. However, so that we can ensure we have the necessary stock, we must receive your grant application – detailing instrument requirements – by **MONDAY 3RD JUNE 2024**.

---

## DO WE NEED TO PURCHASE EXTERNAL PROVISION?

No. Most schools do utilise an external provider or independent specialist, but some find that they already have an 'in-school' programme which fulfils the criteria for First Access e.g. a whole class recorder programme.

---

## IF WE DO PURCHASE EXTERNAL PROVISION, DOES IT HAVE TO BE FROM THE LOVE MUSIC TRUST?

No. The Love Music Trust do provide tuition services but, unlike most music education hubs, we give schools the choice as to who delivers their tuition.

---

## WHAT IS A 'HUB PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT'?

All schools receiving support from the Trust are deemed to be partners of the music education hub in Cheshire East. Where this involves financial support, we are required to formalise this through the creation of a hub partnership agreement. In real terms, for schools, this means that:

- The school is demonstrating its commitment to providing high quality music education.
- The school agrees to abide by the parameters of the funding laid out in this document.
- The school agrees that the grant-supported First Access and Progression teaching which takes place in school will be subject to the effective teaching and learning framework and quality assurance mentoring process (available to view online at <https://lovemusictrust.com/gateway>). In practice, this means that a member of the Trust's management team may visit school to observe the provision in place, discuss any suggested areas for development and strengths with the tutor and potentially arrange a subsequent visit to observe pupil progress over time. Each individual tutor is visited in this manner, not each school, so not every school will receive a quality assurance visit or visits.

---

## HOW ARE GRANTS PAID TO SCHOOLS?

Grants are paid to schools if:

- The specific parameters contained within this document are adhered to.
- The project(s) have commenced (e.g. a grant for a one-term project in the Summer Term will only be paid in the Summer term).
- The tutor delivering your First Access programme has received a quality assurance visit.

If the Love Music Trust is your nominated provider, your grant will be credited against your termly invoice(s).

If the Love Music Trust is not your nominated provider, we will pay you via bank transfer once we have received a copy invoice (proof of purchase) from you.

---

## WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO AND WHEN?

The process for applying for grant funding will vary depending on whether you have received grant funding in 2023/24 or not and who your nominated provider is.

- If you have received grant funding in 2023/24 and the Love Music Trust is your nominated provider then we will send you an agreement for the 2024/25 academic year based on the tuition that you received this year. If you wish to make changes to this for 2024/25, please get in touch with us by emailing [info@lovemusictrust.com](mailto:info@lovemusictrust.com). Otherwise, please review, sign and return a copy of the agreement by **MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2024**. You do not need to apply via our website.
- If you have received grant funding in 2023/24 and the Love Music Trust is not your nominated provider, you will be sent a copy of your hub partnership agreement based on the tuition that you told us you were receiving this year. If you wish to make changes to this for 2024/25, please get in touch with us by emailing [info@lovemusictrust.com](mailto:info@lovemusictrust.com). Otherwise, please review, sign and return a copy of the agreement by **MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2024**. You do not need to apply via our website.
- If you have not received grant funding in 2023/24, you will be sent a letter outlining how to apply online. This needs to be done via our website (<https://lovemusictrust.com/grantsupport>) by **MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2024**).
- All schools who have applied for or are due to receive grant funding in 2023/24 must complete the DfE/ACE Music Survey by **MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2024**. The survey covers musical activity in school during 2023/24, and can be saved and revised before submission. The survey will be opened at the start of June and can be completed online at <https://lovemusictrust.com/gateway>.