

First Access and Continuation Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

What is First Access?

First Access is the name given to whole-class instrumental teaching. It is also known as Wider Opportunities. The Arts Council monitor all music education hubs (MEHs) in England to ensure that they fulfil eight key objectives. First Access is one of those eight objectives. Every MEH must:

“Ensure that every child aged five to 18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-class ensemble teaching programmes for ideally a year (but for a minimum of a term) of weekly tuition on the same instrument.”

We define First Access as a programme that:

- gives all children in at least one year group the opportunity to learn a musical instrument
- runs for for a minimum of a ten consecutive weeks in sessions of no less than 40 minutes duration
- gives children the practical use of their own musical instrument for the duration of each session

What is Continuation?

Continuation is another of the eight objectives of MEHs. Specifically, MEHs must:

“Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.”

If you would like to find out more about the core and extension roles of music education hubs, including how they are funded and scrutinised, please visit <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/music-education/music-education-hubs>.

Our criteria for continuation funding is a little more flexible (see guidelines overleaf) but we are happy to consider all proposals that genuinely support as many children as possible to carry on with their instrumental learning.

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 Friday 25th May 2018.

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 (see overleaf) 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.

Guidance notes: Primary School Music Engagement Grants 2018/19

- a) The guiding principles of the funding are that;
- i. the **First Access Grant** must go towards offsetting the cost of a programme that. Learning should take place for a minimum of a ten consecutive weeks (notwithstanding staff illness, school closures, trips etc.) in sessions of no less than 40 minutes duration. For the duration of each session, every pupil should have practical use of their own instrument (i.e. not sharing use of an instrument with another pupil, unless appropriate e.g. keyboard). 2018/19 First Access grant funding which remains unclaimed at the end of July 2018 will be re-allocated 'en bloc' to schools' partner secondaries.
 - ii. the **Continuation Grant** must go towards assisting pupils who took part in a First Access programme during 2017/18 to continue to learn an instrument in 2018/19. Where a school runs a one- or two-term first access programme which concludes before the end of the academic year, the funding may support a continuation project which runs within that same academic year. It can only be spent on provision which a school makes itself (i.e. its own staff, services purchased by a school from an external provider) and cannot be claimed where parents pay a third party directly for tuition. NB: Your Continuation Grant may be applied to offset the cost of your First Access (Wider Opportunities) programme where the provision purchased is delivered to two (or more) year groups/cohorts. 2018/19 Continuation grant funding which remains unclaimed at the end of July 2018 will be re-invested by LMT in to the borough-wide instrument purchase fund.
 - iii. the **Music Engagement Grant** is available to secondary and special schools to develop new musical activity. In order to claim the grant, you must submit a short online application, detailing what the funding will go towards.
- b) Completion and return of the Arts Council England / Department for Education Music Data Return for 2017/18 by 20th July 2018 via <https://lovemusictrust.com/schools/gateway/>.
- c) Where schools enter in to a grant funding agreement, it is understood that this constitutes the school working as a partner of the music education hub for Cheshire East.
- d) Other than for tuition delivered by the Love Music Trust, copy invoices / statements will need to be provided to show that the total grant given has not exceeded the amount spent by a school.
- e) Your school will agree to follow the Cheshire East Framework for the Quality Assurance of Music Education. This can be viewed at <https://lovemusictrust.com/schools/gateway/> and is subject to annual review by the hub steering group. In accordance with the framework, LMT may organise a quality assurance visit or visits for which timetabling information must be provided.
- f) Applications requiring the free loan of instruments for First Access tuition must be received by Friday 25th May 2018 to ensure stock availability.
- g) Payment will be made to your school via credit note if your school purchases provision from the Love Music Trust or direct bank transfer if your school does not purchase provision from LMT.
- h) In an effort to support pupils to continue to learn following their First Access experience, instruments can be hired for £2.50 per month for the initial 12 months (this rises to £5, the standard rate, thereafter). This is dependent on stock availability and parents/schools will hire these directly from the Love Music Trust. The offer is made regardless of who will deliver tuition.