

FIRST EDITION  
2026



**WELCOME TO GSW  
SWINDON &  
WILTSHIRE'S MUSIC  
HUB FUNDING AND  
MONITORING  
FRAMEWORK**



**A GUIDE FOR DELIVERY PARTNERS, ASSOCIATES AND  
SCHOOLS**



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# WELCOME MESSAGE

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## **About This Framework**

GSW Music Hub created this guide to help Delivery Partners, Associates, and Schools understand what funding grants are available and the ways we track and support grant recipients.



## **How to Apply for Funding**

We manage all funding applications through our Glide Portal. This includes Grant Applications, School Financial Bursaries, and First Access subsidies.

## **Who Can Access the Portal**

To use the portal, you must be either an approved Associate (whether you're an individual or an organisation) or registered as a school requester.

## **Need More Information?**

If you have questions, please contact [pclark@smscio.co.uk](mailto:pclark@smscio.co.uk)

## **Welcome to GSW Swindon & Wiltshire's Music Hub Funding, and Monitoring Framework**

This framework establishes the parameters for GSW Music Hub's partnerships. It outlines our expectations of the delivery partners in whom we invest, as well as what partners can expect from us in return. The framework aims to support the music sector across Swindon and Wiltshire in maintaining ambitious, high-quality provision that is both dynamic and flexible in its approach. It seeks to foster an infrastructure that is inclusive, relevant, and accessible to all children and young people, while emphasising the critical importance of robust hub programme planning.



# How the GSW Swindon & Wiltshire Hub will invest

Subject to government funding being allocated, GSW Music Hub will offer applications through a Grant application portal. These grants are as follows:

**Grant A – Professional Organisations (£16k – upwards)** for annual full year applications - Full commissioning process supported with a local Sub Grant Agreement - Must be match funded at 50% income from other sources, in-kind support can be offered in some cases.

**Reporting Requirements** It is likely that ACE/DfE reporting requirements will change before or during the course of the next academic year - if this is the case we will do our best to make this as simple to incorporate as we can but anyone delivering with Hub funds will need to be aware this may happen.

**Financial support** for delivery is offered for the duration of one year (normally the Academic year).

Branding and marketing guidance to follow will include a requirement for appropriate referencing of the HLO, Arts Council England and DfE's support.

**Grant B – Individual professionals and Professional organisations (£2k+ - £15K)** application to cover cold spots recognised by Needs Analysis supported by local Sub Grant Agreements- Must be match funded at 50% income from other sources, in-kind support can be offered in some cases. The Delivery Partners commissioning matrix will be used for any new cold spot/project offers advertised through the commissioning process.

**Reporting Requirements** It is likely that ACE/DfE reporting requirements will change before or during the course of the next academic year - if this is the case we will do our best to make this as simple to incorporate as we can but anyone delivering with Hub funds will need to be aware this may happen.

**Financial support** for delivery is offered for the duration of one year (normally the Academic year).

# How the GSW Swindon & Wiltshire Hub will invest

**Grant C – Individual professionals and Professional organisations (£600 - £2K)** for One-off projects depending on funding availability at County level approval - Contract needed with outcome/outputs required - Should be match funded at 50% income from other sources, in-kind support can be offered in some cases.

**Grant D – School - (£100 - £500)** available for projects such as: Progression groups, GCSE support for secondary schools; One-off music workshop at KS 1-3 introducing instrumental learning; Live Music Roadshows. Should be match funded at 50% income from other sources and not available for existing projects

A report is required which is accessible on this portal once the Project is completed. The report will include numbers of pupils involved and a text box to record project's outcome/output.



# Separate Funding Agreements for Community Groups and Schools.

## Grants B & C: Community Music Projects Our Vision for Community Investment

Through Grants B and C, we are seeking innovative and impactful applications from community-based organisations delivering music projects for children and young people across Swindon and Wiltshire. We are particularly interested in initiatives that embody our core principle of enabling young people to make, learn, and enjoy in music.

### What We're Looking For

We welcome applications for projects that achieve one or more of the following objectives:

We want innovative projects that enable young people to **make, learn, and enjoy music**. We're especially interested in:

#### Trial & Innovation

- Pilot new ideas and engagement methods
- Explore new technologies or partnership models
- Test fresh teaching approaches

#### Sustaining Grassroots Provision

- Maintain essential community music programmes
- Meet real local needs
- Build on existing provision

#### Disrupting the Status Quo

- Challenge traditional approaches
- Break down barriers to access
- Make music more relevant to young people's lives
- Create opportunities that haven't existed before

#### Integrated Approaches

Projects combining all three goals are particularly welcome.

**Geographic Scope** Projects must be delivered within Swindon and/or Wiltshire and demonstrate clear benefits for children and young people in these communities.

#### 2025-26 Priority Themes

Your project must address at least one:

- Early Years
- Alternative Provision (AP) for young people facing barriers
- Contemporary Music Making
- Professional Music Performances involving children and young people

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS AND WHO CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING?

# Grant D for SCHOOLS, Music Development, Tuition Bursaries and Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (First Access) Subsidies

## Our Vision for School Investment

**Through Grant D, we are seeking** schools to support music in their school through various ways set out below. In addition, we offer schools Tuition Bursaries for pupils from less well-off families, subsidies to help deliver Whole Class Ensemble Tuition during the school day, and grants to help develop their instrumental musical progression offer.

## What We're Looking For

We're looking for exciting projects that help young people **make, learn, and enjoy music** through:

- GCSE Music support for Key Stage 4 students
- Taster sessions introducing instrument lessons at KS 1- 3
- Music progression opportunities for instrumental/vocal pupils at primary and secondary schools
- Live Music Roadshows

## Tuition Bursaries for Schools

### Limited Funding Available

The Department for Education (DfE) gives us a set amount of money for Tuition Bursaries each year. Because funding is limited, we encourage schools to apply early.

### Who Gets Priority

We will prioritise schools that are applying for pupils that are continuing their lessons from last year before we consider new applications.

### When Applications Close

Once all the funding has been given out, we will close the Tuition Bursary application for the rest of the school year. If we secure additional funding and can reopen applications, we will let schools know. This funding is designed to supplement schools Pupil Premium funding and not to replace it.

## Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (First Access)

Schools can apply for subsidies to support Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (First Access) for pupils in KS 1 & 2, as outlined in the National Plan for Music Education: *" Music Hubs will be expected to provide an offer of whole-class and/or group instrumental lessons to their schools so that every child can learn an instrument in class time. Such provision should be aimed at primary schools predominantly (and would expect it will be delivered mainly at key stage 2)"*.

## Tuition Bursaries for schools

### Lessons attracting Bursaries are:

15-minute individual lessons; 20-minute individual lesson; 20-minute shared lessons; 30-minute shared lessons

Who is eligible?

- Pupils receiving Free School meals / Pupil Premium
- SEND Pupils who also receive Pupil Premium
- Looked After Children (LAC)

Associate tutors will demand their own fees, but the hub's recommended range is from £30.40 to £41.50 per hour.

Bursary amount on all categories above is: £5.60 per lesson. For paired lessons, the lesson attracts the Bursary and not each individual pupil.

Associates can still state in the Portal their chosen cost for tuition ranging from £30.40 – £41.50 p/h. However, no matter what they charge the Bursary amount is fixed at £5.60 per lesson.

### Important information about Financial Bursaries:

- Financial Bursaries are available when one of our associates is providing the tuition and they are being paid the equivalent of £30.40 – £41.50 p/h, . This is not to include a school's admin fee, if there is one.
- Regardless of the hourly rate the Associate tutor charges, the Bursary is capped at £5.60p per lesson.
- Financial Bursary requests need to come from schools, using the on-line Portal
- Financial Bursaries cannot be made retrospectively.
- Sessions are not to be compressed or doubled up. We expect lessons to be spread out across the academic year (e.g. 1 session per week)
- A pupil can only be supported to learn with ONE associate Tutor per academic year.



## First Access Subsidies

The Hub will continue to subsidise WCET (First Access) at Key Stage 2 and MUST be delivered by one of our specialist Associate tutors.

### Criteria for First Access Subsidies:

- Your WCET First Access programme must be delivered by one of our Associate tutors.
- If you are using an Associate then he/she must be paid the equivalent of £43.30 per hour. (Subsidy will not be agreed for lower rates of pay.)
- Your WCET First Access provision must take place on the equivalent of a weekly basis over a minimum of one term (minimum of 10 sessions). We will not fund First Access that takes place in an intense block.
- First Access must be delivered during the school timetable and not at lunchtime or afterschool enrichment time.
- Subsidy is available for up to 33 sessions / weeks of sessions.
- Pupils must be able to access the WCET First Access provision for free and without needing to buy an instrument.
- You must provide time to introduce options for continuation to pupils / parents.
- Schools must provide some feedback to Swindon Music Service in relation to pupils' continuation – we will provide an accessible template.

### How much subsidy is available?

We can subsidise First Access (WCET) tuition delivered by one of our Associate tutors. We encourage schools to think about how incoming expertise can be linked to wider agenda such as literacy & numeracy.

For academic year 2025-26 the amount of subsidy we can offer is calculated on the size of your Year 3 intake (or Year 7 for secondary schools):

- Up to 30 pupils – £5.55 per session (Plus £2.50 per week for Early Bird offer)
- 31-60 pupils – £8.33 per session (Plus £2.50 per week for Early Bird offer)
- 61+ pupils – £11.11 per session (Plus £2.50 per week for Early Bird offer)

You can request subsidy for a maximum of 33 weeks.



## Who is eligible to apply?

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for Grants A, B, and C, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Hub Membership Status** You or your organisation must hold Approved Associate status with the GSW Music Hub. This formal relationship ensures alignment with our strategic objectives and quality standards.
- 2. Commitment to the Associate Eco-Family Ethos** All applicants must demonstrate their commitment to and sign up to the core principles of our associate eco-family, which include:

### Financial Sustainability

- **Contributing to leveraged income targets:** Associates must actively contribute toward the leveraged income requirements mandated by the Department for Education (DfE), through the Arts Council England (ACE). This ensures the long-term sustainability and growth of music education provision across Swindon and Wiltshire.
- **Sustainable pricing models:** Services must not be offered free of charge. While we are committed to accessibility and removing barriers to participation, associates are expected to implement appropriate pricing structures that reflect the value of their provision and contribute to the sector's financial viability. Where necessary, subsidised rates or bursary schemes should be explored to maintain accessibility whilst ensuring sustainability.
- **Our Associate Eco-Family Values (our Inclusion Policy)**
  1. Radical listening and youth-centric design
  2. Embedding equality as core business
  3. Challenging underrepresentation
  4. Creating authentic representation and diverse musical futures
  5. Accessible, anti-oppressive communications
  6. Transformative partnerships for systemic change
  7. Data-driven accountability and courageous reflection
  8. Cultivating a culture of belonging

**Additional Considerations** If you are unsure about your eligibility or Approved Associate status, please contact the GSW Music Hub team before submitting your application. We are here to support potential applicants through the process and can provide guidance on meeting these criteria.

To be eligible to apply for Grant D, applicants must meet the following requirements:

**A state school in Swindon or Wiltshire** that engages with the music hub through the Music Cluster Coordinators.



# Quality Framework

## Applications must sign up to our Quality Charter

Across Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire, our partners create powerful musical experiences with young people. The GSW Quality Framework provides a clear, simple way to describe quality across the region - rooted in youth voice, access, musical progression and lived experience.

### Our Principles

- **Lived experience over external judgement** - quality is seen in real moments of music-making, which we share and learn from
- **Youth voice at the centre** - young people shape design, delivery and review
- **Musical x Holistic** - progress and wellbeing matter equally
- **Different in different context** - quality looks different in schools, studios, community spaces, events
- **Connection over comparison** - learning together, not ranking
- **Space to improve, not pressure to prove** - light, purposeful evidence



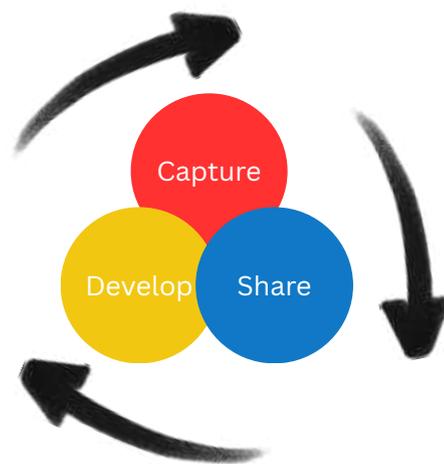
### The Framework : Capture - Share - Develop

Based on Youth Music’s Capture, Share, Develop which enables a shared cycle of reflection and learning that supports consistent, collaborative quality across the GSW partnership

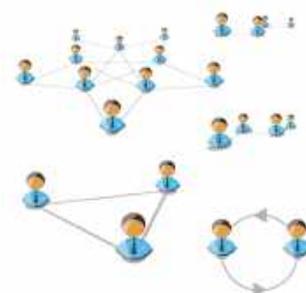
**Capture** - observations, youth voice, stakeholder feedback, engagement data, stories & lived examples

**Share** - peer visits, shared clips/stories, reflective summaries, annual conversations

**Develop** - CPD, acting on feedback, continuous reflection, strong safeguarding & inclusion



It’s a continuous loop, not a one-off exercise - encouraging open, reflective practice and a cycle of improvement that’s practical, evidence-based, and rooted in lived experiences.



## Funded Partners will agree to:

- Celebrate diverse approaches to quality
- 
- Participate in a shared reflective cycle
- 
- Use evidence meaningfully
- 
- Support opens, curiosity and kindness
- 
- Build a shared story of quality for GSW



## Other useful documents

**GSW Music Hub Inclusion Strategy:**

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/p3nndwxc/gsw-inclusion-strategy.pdf>

**GSW Commissioning Policy:**

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsw-music-hub/policies/>

# LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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