

FIRST EDITION · 2026

GSW Music Hub

Swindon & Wiltshire

SCHOOLS GUIDE FOR WILTSHIRE SCHOOLS

Funding & Monitoring Framework
Annual Grants, Tuition Bursaries & First Access Subsidies

Swindon & Wiltshire

Supported by Arts Council England & Department for Education

Contact: pclark@smscio.co.uk | 01793 610673

Inside this guide:

- ▶ About This Framework
- ▶ How Schools Apply (Portal Guide)
- ▶ Grant C — School Projects
- ▶ Grant D — Music Development
- ▶ Tuition Bursaries
- ▶ First Access (WCET) Subsidies
- ▶ Eligibility & Quality Framework

01 — ABOUT THIS FRAMEWORK

Understanding How We Fund Swindon Schools

GSW Music Hub created this guide to help Swindon schools understand what funding grants are available and the ways we track and support grant recipients.

We believe every child in Swindon deserves access to high-quality music education. Our funding framework is designed to remove barriers, support schools at every stage, and build a thriving musical community across the region.

All funding is subject to government allocation. Applications are reviewed by the Hub team in partnership with your Cluster Coordinator.

How Schools Apply — Tuition Bursaries, First Access Grants & Grant D Through the Glide Portal

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

How to Apply All applications are managed through our Glide Portal, including Grant Applications, School Financial Bursaries, and First Access subsidies.	Who Can Access the Portal? Approved Associates (individuals or organisations), or schools. Schools should already have access to the portal — if not, please contact your Cluster Coordinator (CC) to get set up.
---	---

Schools can submit funding requests quickly and easily through the Glide Portal. Follow the steps below to register and submit your application.

Step 1: Register as a Requester

To register, you will need to provide the following details to your Cluster Coordinator:

Field	Details Required
Name of Requester	Full name of the person submitting the request
Email Address	Contact email address of the requester
Name of School	Full name of the school making the request

Step 2: Access the Portal

Visit the Glide Portal using the link below to begin your application:

 **Glide Portal:** <https://wmc-subsidy-portal.glide.page>

Step 3: Submit Your Application

Once registered, complete the application form within the portal. Ensure all fields are filled in accurately to avoid delays in processing your request.

Need help?

If you experience any difficulties registering or submitting your application, please contact your Cluster Coordinator or the admin office.

Grants Available to Schools

Subject to government funding being allocated, GSW Music Hub will offer applications annually through a Grant application portal. The grants relevant to schools are summarised below.

Grant C £600–£2k

Associates & Organisations — School Projects (apply via an Associate)

- For one-off school music projects or CPD, depending on funding availability
- Schools can approach an Associate or organisation from the eco-family to apply on their behalf
- Contract required with outcome/outputs
- Should be match funded at 50% income from other sources

Grant D £100–£500

Schools only — Music Development & One-Off Projects

- Progression groups and GCSE / BTEC Level 2 support for secondary schools, as well as A Level / BTEC Level 3 music support
- One-off music workshop at KS 1–3 introducing instrumental learning
- Live Music Performances
- Should be match funded at 50%, not available for existing projects
- Report required via portal on completion (pupil numbers + outcomes)
- Schools must have submitted their annual data return, or be in the process of doing so — this may be taken into consideration by the hub when reviewing applications

Grant D Reporting

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

Grant C: School & Community Music Projects

Our Vision for School Community Investment

Through Grant C, we are seeking innovative and impactful applications for school projects or community-based projects submitted by individuals or organisations from the Associate eco-family delivering music projects for children and young people across Swindon and Wiltshire. We are particularly interested in initiatives that enable young people to make, learn, and enjoy music.

Can schools apply for Grant C?

Grant C is open to Associates and organisations — but they can work in partnership with schools on school projects. If you have a project in mind, you are encouraged to approach an Associate or organisation from the eco-family to apply on your school's behalf.

What We're Looking For

Trial & Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilot new ideas & engagement methods• Explore new technologies or partnership models• Test fresh teaching approaches	Sustaining Grassroots <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain essential community music programmes• Meet real local needs• Build on existing provision	Disrupting the Status Quo <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenge traditional approaches• Break down barriers to access• Make music relevant to young people's lives
--	--	---

2026–27 Priority Themes <p>Your project must address at least one of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Years• Alternative Provision (AP)• Contemporary Music Making• Music Projects for Children & Young People	Geographic Scope <p>Projects must be delivered within Swindon and demonstrate clear benefits for children and young people in local schools or communities.</p> <p>Delivery Area: Wiltshire</p>
--	---

Geographic Scope

Projects must be delivered within Wiltshire and demonstrate clear benefits for children and young people in these schools or communities.

Grant D for Schools — Music Development & Tuition

Our Vision for School Investment

Through Grant D, we are seeking schools to support their music curriculum in a variety of ways. In addition, we offer Tuition Bursaries for pupils from less well-off families, subsidies for Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (First Access), and grants (Grant C) to develop instrumental musical progression.

What We're Looking For from Grant D Applications

Exciting projects that help young people make, learn, and enjoy music, such as:

- GCSE / BTEC Level 2 Music support for Key Stage 4 students, as well as A Level / BTEC Level 3 music support
- Taster sessions introducing instrument lessons at KS 1–3
- Music progression opportunities for instrumental/vocal pupils at primary and secondary schools
- Live Music Roadshows

**This list is not exhaustive*

Who Is Eligible to Apply — Schools (Grant D)

For Grant D — Schools

A state school in Swindon or Wiltshire that engages with the music hub through the Music Cluster Coordinators. This means having an active relationship with your Cluster Coordinator (CC) — for example, attending cluster meetings, responding to hub communications, sharing data returns, and working collaboratively to support music provision in your school.

Not Sure About Your Eligibility?

Contact your school cluster coordinator or the Swindon & Wiltshire Music team before submitting your application. We are here to support potential applicants through the process and can provide guidance on meeting these criteria.

Access the support Video to assist you completing a Grant D Application [HERE?](#)

Bursaries for Pupils in Financial Need

Tuition bursaries supplement your school's Pupil Premium funding to ensure every eligible pupil can access music tuition.

Bursary Amount £5.60 per lesson Recommended tutor rate: £30.40–£41.50/hr. Supplements Pupil Premium.	Funding Source DfE Annual Budget Apply early — once budget is allocated, applications close for the rest of the year.	Priority Pupils Renewals First Pupils continuing lessons from last year are prioritised before new applications.
--	---	--

Who is Eligible?

Free School Meals Pupils receiving Free School Meals or Pupil Premium	SEND Pupils SEND pupils who also receive Pupil Premium	Looked After Children Your school can apply to the local authority LAC team to cover remaining lesson costs
---	--	---

Important Rules

Rules for Bursary Claims

Bursary capped at £5.60 per lesson regardless of tutor rate · Requests must come via the portal — not retrospectively · One session per week (no doubling up) · A pupil can only be supported by ONE Associate Tutor per academic year · Annual data return must be submitted or in progress

Eligible lesson types: 15-min individual · 20-min individual · 20-min shared · 30-min shared

First Access (WCET) Subsidies – Schools only

The Hub will continue to subsidise Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (First Access) at Key Stage 2. It MUST be delivered by one of our specialist Associate tutors.

Criteria for First Access Subsidies

- Programme must be delivered by one of our Associate tutors
- Associate must be paid the equivalent of £43.30 per hour (subsidy will not be agreed for lower rates)
- Provision must take place on a weekly basis over a minimum of one term (minimum 10 sessions) — no intense block delivery
- Must be delivered during the school timetable, not at lunchtime or after-school
- Subsidy available for up to 33 sessions / weeks
- Pupils must access provision free of charge and without needing to buy an instrument
- Schools must provide time to introduce continuation options to pupils/parents
- Schools must provide feedback to Swindon Music Service on pupils' continuation (template provided)
- Schools must have submitted their annual data return, or be in the process of doing so — this may be taken into consideration when the hub reviews applications

How Much Subsidy is Available?

For academic year 2026–27, subsidy is calculated on the size of your Year 3 intake (or Year 7 for secondary schools):

Cohort Size	Subsidy per Session	Early Bird Bonus
Up to 30 pupils	£5.55 per session	+ £2.50 per week
31–60 pupils	£8.33 per session	+ £2.50 per week
61+ pupils	£11.11 per session	+ £2.50 per week

You can request subsidy for a maximum of 33 weeks.

Our Quality Assurance Framework

All funded partners must sign up to the GSW Quality Charter — rooted in youth voice, access, musical progression and lived experience.

Our Principles

<p>Lived experience over external judgement</p> <p>Quality is seen in real moments of music-making, which we share and learn from together.</p>	<p>Youth voice at the centre</p> <p>Young people shape design, delivery and review of all funded activities.</p>
<p>Musical × Holistic</p> <p>Progress and wellbeing matter equally in everything we measure.</p>	<p>Different in different contexts</p> <p>Quality looks different in schools, studios, community spaces and events.</p>
<p>Connection over comparison</p> <p>Learning together, not ranking against each other.</p>	<p>Space to improve, not pressure to prove</p> <p>Light, purposeful evidence — not a compliance burden.</p>

Capture — Share — Develop

Based on Youth Music’s model — a shared cycle of reflection and learning supporting consistent, collaborative quality across the GSW partnership.

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.2em;">CAPTURE</p> <p>Step 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observations • Youth voice • Stakeholder feedback • Engagement data • Stories & lived examples 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.2em;">SHARE</p> <p>Step 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer visits • Shared clips & stories • Reflective summaries • Annual conversations 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.2em;">DEVELOP</p> <p>Step 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPD • Acting on feedback • Continuous reflection • Strong safeguarding & inclusion
--	---	---

Policies & Resources

Key documents to read alongside this guide.

→	GSW Commissioning Policy gloucestershire.gov.uk — Policy page	Visit
---	---	-----------------------

→	Glide Application Portal Apply for grants and bursaries online	Visit
---	--	-----------------------

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

01793 610673 | www.gswswindwilts.org.uk | admin@smscio.co.uk

The Platform, Faringdon Road, Swindon, SN1 5BJ

Supported by Arts Council England & Department for Education