

# WIGAN MUSIC SERVICE

Providing the pathway for every child's musical journey

## Wigan Music Service Assisted Tuition Scheme (ATS) - FAQs

### What is the Assisted Tuition Scheme?

This scheme was introduced in September 2012 as a means of contributing to the cost of learning to play for those families who may not have the means to fully support a child's musical learning. The funding for this scheme has been made available thanks to generous support from anonymous donors and is administrated by Wigan Council Music Service. The scheme helps us in our response to the government's National Plan for Music Education which clearly advocates the availability of affordable progression pathways for all pupils.

This scheme supports instrumental music provision provided by Wigan Music Service only. You cannot use it to apply for support for private tuition or activities run by other providers, even if this provision takes place in your child's school.

### How do I apply?

You need to complete the application form attached.

Your form will need to be signed by your child's current Headteacher who will verify that to their knowledge, the information you have provided is correct. If for any reason you are uncomfortable with sharing your application with your child's headteacher, please contact us to discuss.

Completed forms should be sent by Headteachers in an envelope marked '**Private and Confidential**' to:

**Wigan Music Service,  
Park Rd,  
Hindley,  
Wigan,  
WN2 3RY**

For deadline information, please refer to the note attached to this sheet.

### How much financial support is available?

The amount of support available will vary depending on the funds available in the scheme, the help that is requested, and the circumstances described in the application.

The scheme acknowledges that the cost of supporting a child's music education can increase as they progress and may require additional tuition / become members of ensembles.

### Which activities / services can I get support with?

- Weekly instrumental lessons
- Music Centre Subscriptions and associated events
- Instrument hire

**This Scheme can only support one course of instrumental study per child. (A child learning piano and violin cannot apply for support on both of these instruments)**

Assistance with graded music examination fees is available for pupils receiving free school meals. This support will be dealt with outside of the Assisted Tuition Scheme. Please contact the Head of Music Service on 01942 776169 for information.



## Who will decide whether I am eligible to access the scheme?

The ATS panel will decide. The panel will be made up of music service managers.

## How will the panel decide whether I am eligible?

It is important that the limited funding goes to those pupils and families who will make the very most of the opportunities it makes possible. The panel will refer to the details you provide in your application form and the reference from your child's Headteacher.

The panel may also enquire to your child's instrumental teacher and will consider your child's engagement with ensembles and other music service activities.

## Will I be able to receive 'back pay' for any tuition or services I have received prior to this application?

NO. The scheme will only provide assistance for future provision and services.

## I am successful in my application, how will I receive my financial support?

Parents will not receive any money. If you are successful in applying for help with tuition costs for instrumental lessons received in school, we will communicate with your child's school and will advise them of the subsidy that will be applied.

Your payment amounts will then be reduced accordingly by the school.

If you are applying for support towards instrumental lessons delivered at our evening music centres (DPT) the subsidy will be applied to the termly bill you receive directly from Wigan Music Service.

If you are applying for support for ensemble fees, or for instrument hire costs, you will not receive bills from the music service for these directly provided services for the duration of the support agreed as part of a successful application.

## How long will the support last?

Normally, regardless of when support begins, it will be agreed until the end of the current academic year.

You will be invited to reapply for the new academic year if your circumstances remain the same. If you do not reapply, charges will default back to normal.

We will write to you in the Summer term to remind you about this.

The amount of available funding for this scheme and your personal circumstances may change in future years. Therefore, there is no guarantee that future applications for the same support will be successful.

## How will I know if I have been successful?

We will write to you with the outcome of your application after the meeting of the ATS decision panel.

## Who can I call if I have questions?

Your initial questions should be directed towards Sarah Wallace/Hilary Wilson (Music Service Admin) on 01942 776169. Should you have a music specific or sensitive query, you can ask to speak to a member of the service management team on the same number.

## Will my application will be dealt with confidentially?

Yes. The information you provide will be viewed only by the ATS panel and your child's Headteacher.

Application forms will be retained by the Music Service and dealt with according to the Wigan Council data protection policy. You can view our privacy notice at [www.wigan.gov.uk/musicserviceprivacy](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/musicserviceprivacy) If you would like any more information about the Assisted Tuition Scheme or any other service that we provide, please contact:

### Wigan Music Service

Park Road

Hindley

Wigan WN2 3RY

01942 776169

[musicserenq@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:musicserenq@wigan.gov.uk)