

Remissions Policy

Purpose of the Policy

- To ensure that all children and young people have access to music tuition, instrument hire and ensemble music making opportunities, overcoming financial barriers.
- To provide additional support for children and young people facing challenging circumstances such as special educational needs.
- To extend the opportunities available in schools by providing music centre ensembles at no additional cost to families.

Scope of the Policy

This policy covers activities provided by Edsential Musical Routes, in schools and in music centres. One-off events and residential courses may have their own remissions policy.

The policy is funded through the Music Education Hub grant and other sources of grant funding and donations. The amount of support we can give is directly related to the amount of grant funding that we can bring in. Consequently, we may need to review this policy if financial circumstances change.

School Tuition

Edsential Musical Routes requests that every school has a remissions policy covering music tuition, ensemble membership and instrument hire to make music education accessible for all children and young people. Edsential Musical Routes will refer students to the school policy for activities that take place on school premises as part of the school's provision. Please contact your school office for more information.

Instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to the rule that all education provided during school hours must be free. The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 allow for charges to be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size – provided that the tuition is at the request of the pupil's parents. The charges should not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff providing the tuition.

Charging should not be passed onto families/carers if the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum, including whole class instrumental tuition and First Access programmes. No charge should be made in respect of pupils who are Looked After by the local authority: see below.

Looked After and Displaced Children

Edsential Musical Routes, together with our quality assured partner, Music for Life, provide tuition, instrument hire and ensemble membership free of charge for young musicians in Cheshire West and Chester or Wirral who are:

- Children Looked After by the local authority ie. children in care.
- Children displaced ie. refugees or asylum seekers.

Music Centre Tuition

Young musicians who are not covered by their school remissions policy because they are learning at a different school ie. in an Edsential Music Centre, may be granted a remission directly from Edsential. Automatic remissions are offered for:

- Pupil Premium (100% funding)
- NHS low income scheme -certificate HC2 or HC3 (50% funding)

Bursary Award Scheme

The Edsential Music Routes Bursary fund enables young people in challenging circumstances to access music lessons. We aim to support young people with a talent and enthusiasm for music who need help to fund lessons, hire an instrument or to fund additional support in order to develop their musical skills. This scheme would be suitable to support young people with special educational needs and disabilities who may need extra time for tuition or adapted instruments. There is an application process which includes a written statement from a parent or teacher about why the bursary is required. Applications are reviewed by two Managers from the Music Service to ensure that our awarding process is fair and requests are processed as quickly as possible. Bursaries (usually a percentage of the total costs) are awarded according to the funding available in any funding cycle and are reviewed annually.

We welcome applications from anyone who feels they will benefit from our support. Please contact us at music@edsential.co.uk

Membership of Edsential music ensembles

Young musicians pay one fee for joining Edsential music ensembles and this covers all music ensembles in multiple centres.

Music ensemble membership is free of charge for students learning in a school with an Edsential tutor. Membership of the Cheshire Youth Music for Life Jazz Orchestra and Band is free of charge for students learning with either an Edsential or Music for Life tutor. This is a

great benefit to students learning to play an instrument in a school where ensemble opportunities are limited.

Music ensemble members who go away to university are sometimes invited back to perform in a few rehearsals and concerts. Membership is free of charge to these HE students (up to the age of 21).

Policy Review and Evaluation

Each year, remissions data is used to evaluate the extent to which we are using the remissions policy to support young musicians in challenging circumstances. Data is shared with Arts Council England. This is numerical data and not sensitive nor personalised.

The policy is reviewed annually or more frequently if required.

Individual recipients of Bursary Awards and remissions are reviewed regularly to ensure that they still require the financial support.