

## Charges, Remissions and Subsidy Policy

### Music School

Families in receipt of housing benefit or council tax reduction (with exception of the 25% single person reduction) are entitled to subsidised lessons, instrument hire, Music School (MS) membership and a reduced rate to participate in MS activities and courses where charges apply.

We offer bespoke payment plans for parents who struggle to make a one-off payment to cover fees, and these can be arranged by contacting the Music Service office who will refer the enquiry to the relevant member of the team.

The Friends of Waltham Forest Music Service also have a limited number of funding grants for Music School members covering up to 75% of the costs of lessons, music school membership, instrument hire, exam fees which families can apply for annually.

Entry to Music School concerts is by optional “suggested donation”, including concessionary rates, and there is no obligation to make any donation if financial circumstances do not allow.

### Schools

We encourage and support schools to make use of their resources, including pupil premium and other available funding to support those families who are in need and want to access music education opportunities beyond the curriculum. Waltham Forest Music Service (WFMS) with support from Arts Council England, ensure all schools can take advantage of a fully funded term of First Access tuition (WCET) to one year group, and we work with schools to ensure all whole class activity is free at the point of delivery.

Our partnership with the London Music Fund provides extra funding to those students identified as meeting the select criteria. Details of other funders which individuals can apply to for financial assistance are detailed on our website <https://www.wfmusicHub.org/help-with-fees>

WFMS welcomes any young person who resides in and/or attends school in the London Borough of Waltham Forest to Music School where, if eligible, they can access the subsidised activities costs.

WFMS also accesses additional funding to support the delivery and accessibility of further music education opportunities for all children and young people in the borough. There is a page on our website [www.wfmusicHub.org](http://www.wfmusicHub.org) which signposts families to external funding opportunities.

Our priority is to ensure all children and young people, regardless of background, are able to access high quality music education, and we work flexibly with funding/funders to help support as many families and YP as we can.

### Fee increases

Fees will be reviewed annually to check they cover the Music Service’s costs and are aligned with inflation. Annual fee increases are applied at the start of the academic year and families and schools will be informed by email in the preceding summer term.

For any further questions or for a discussion about financial support, parents and schools are invited to contact the Music Service directly.