



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-0189, 15 July 2019

Music Education in England

By Nerys Roberts
Michael O'Donnell

Summary

On Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 9.30 a.m., there will be a Westminster Hall debate on music education in England. The Member leading the debate is James Frith MP.

Contents

1. Background	2
1.1 Music in the curriculum	2
1.2 Current and previous government policy 2012 National Plan for Music Education	2
1.3 Funding for music education	3
Charging for instrument lessons	3
1.4 Concerns about music provision in schools	3
School accountability measures and league tables	3
State of the nation: music education report (January 2019)	4
Incorporated Society of Musicians report (December 2018)	5
2. News	6
3. Parliamentary Material	7
3.1 Written Questions	7
3.2 Oral Questions	18

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

1.1 Music in the curriculum

In England, music education is part of the national curriculum for children in key stages 1, 2 and 3. These key stages take place from the ages of around 5 to around 14 years old.

Academies and free schools are not required to follow the national curriculum however the Government has stated music should form part of a broad and balanced curriculum in these schools.

It is up to schools how much time they dedicate to music education; they have freedom to deliver the curriculum as they think appropriate.

1.2 Current and previous government policy

2012 National Plan for Music Education

In February 2011, the Department for Education (DfE) published a review of music education in England, conducted by the then managing director of Classic FM, Darren Henley.¹ The review found that while some children received excellent music education, others were receiving inadequate provision.

The review made several recommendations, including the creation of music education hubs in each local authority area. Under the recommendations these would be made up of schools, local authority music services, Arts Council England client organisations and others. The review recommended that these hubs should be responsible for the allocation of funding provided to local authorities by central government. It was suggested that while the lead organisation in these hubs was likely to be the established local authority music service provider, it could also potentially be an Arts Council England client organisation or another recognised delivery organisation.

Later that year, following the publication of Darren Henley's review, the then Coalition Government published its [National Plan for Music Education](#). The Government stated that the aims of the national plan were to enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing; and to have the opportunity to progress in developing their musical abilities.

¹ Department for Education and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, [Music Education in England: A Review by Darren Henley](#), 7 February 2011.

The national plan for music applies to all schools including academies and free schools.²

1.3 Funding for music education

Provision in schools in England is funded from a mix of sources including contributions from school budgets, local government funding and targeted central government funding. The allocation of funding provided to local authorities by central government in each local area is the responsibility of music education hubs. In the 2019/20 financial year, the Department for Education is allocating £76 million for music education hubs.³

Music hubs have also been tasked by the Government with meeting various targets for improving music education in schools. These include ensuring children have the opportunity to learn an instrument, to play in ensembles as well as enabling young people to join choirs and other vocal ensembles.

Despite this funding, both the Coalition Government and the current Government have been criticised for not doing enough to support music education in schools. Organisations including the Musicians' Union and Protect Music Education have argued that the overall level of funding available has reduced, in part because of pressure on local government budgets.

Charging for instrument lessons

Schools are permitted to charge for individual (or small group) instrument or vocal lessons in schools, providing the request for the lessons came from the parents.

1.4 Concerns about music provision in schools

School accountability measures and league tables

The headline performance measure for secondary schools in England is currently known as Progress 8. As the name suggests, this measures the progress that schools make with their pupils, given their different respective starting points in terms of prior attainment. GCSE music can be used in one of Progress 8's 3 'open subject' slots – the other 5 slots are for core academic subjects such as English and maths.

² [PO 120514](#), 8 January 2018, 120514.

³ Arts Council England, [19-20 MEH allocations](#), January 2019.

Particular concerns have been raised about the impact of another performance measure, the English Baccalaureate (or EBacc).

Like Progress 8, the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a performance measure for schools in England. It measures the achievement of pupils who have gained Key Stage 4 (GCSE level) qualifications in the following subjects:

- English
- mathematics
- history or geography
- the sciences; and
- a language

The campaign group, *Bacc for the Future*, argues that the measure:

- makes it “much less likely” that pupils will study creative, artistic and technical subjects later, or participate in extra-curricular activities related to them.
- “threatens the skills pipeline for creative industries in the UK, with severe consequences for their ability to recruit future talent.”⁴

The Government maintains that the EBacc’s limited size allows for the study of other subjects, including music.⁵

State of the nation: music education report (January 2019)

In January 2019, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Music Education, the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM), and the University of Sussex, published their [State of the nation report](#). This argued:

- That Government policy, “particularly around the accountability measures like the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)” had “significantly negatively impacted” on music education.
- The number of GCSE entries in GCSE music had fallen since 2014/15 even accounting for changes to pupil numbers. Teacher numbers had also reduced.

The report recommended:

- That the Government should ensure that all schools teach music education on a “regular and sustained” basis, across key stages 1 to 3.

⁴ Bacc for the Future website article, [‘Key information’](#), (undated)

⁵ [PO 245581](#), 25 April 2019.

- That the *Progress 8* and *Ebacc* performance measures should be reviewed and reformed.
- An increased focus on the music education workforce, to ensure that pupils were taught by subject specialists.⁶

Incorporated Society of Musicians report (December 2018)

The ISM published its report, [The Future of Music Education](#), in December 2018, which was based on surveys and other data. Key recommendations of the report stated that:

- There was a need for greater clarity on the roles and responsibilities of music hubs and schools.
- Every secondary school should have at least one full-time music teacher who exclusively teaches music and no other subject.
- The means for measuring music hubs' performance should be changed, to focus more on quality and outcomes rather than levels of activity.
- Funding for hubs should be maintained or increased, and settlements should be on a 3-year basis.
- The Government should provide appropriate funding for replacing/repairing musical instruments, to support the delivery of the next plan.
- There should be more of a focus on ensuring that there is a sufficient number of properly qualified teachers coming through to support the delivery of music education in our schools and hubs.; there should also be a focus on tackling the job insecurity of many music teachers.

⁶ APPG for Music Education, the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and the University of Sussex, [Music Education: State of the Nation](#), January 2019, p3.

2. News

[Poorer pupils missing out on A-level music](#), TES, 31 May 2019

[Postcode lottery denies poor A-level students a musical career](#),
Guardian, 26 May 2019

[School music lessons should cover hip-hop and grime, says charity](#),
Guardian, 22 May 2019

[Stormzy should be taught in schools instead of Mozart to prevent
exclusions, charity urges](#), Telegraph, 22 May 2019

[Allowing pupils to study grime and hip-hop in class can improve
attendance of pupils at risk of exclusion, study finds](#), Independent, 22
May 2019

[Music is becoming 'preserve of the privileged few' as state schools
abandon the subject in droves](#), Telegraph, 18 October 2018

[Music disappearing from curriculum, schools survey shows](#), Guardian,
10 October 2018

[How a school in Bradford is beating the odds with music](#), BBC, 19
September 2018

[Sheku Kanneh-Mason is a state school success story. He may never have
a successor](#), Guardian, 3 July 2018

[Music is at the very heart of one East End school](#), Guardian, 25 June
2017

3. Parliamentary Material

3.1 Written Questions

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 262461, 13 June 2019

Asked by: McGinn, Conor | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, on which dates the National Plan for Music Education monitoring board met since 2011; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |

Department: Department for Education

The National Plan for Music Education, published in 2011, sets out the Government's commitment to music and our desire that young musicians should have every opportunity to progress as far as their talents allow.

According to the Department's records, the National Plan monitoring board met on the following dates: Monday 23 January 2012; Monday 14 May 2012; Wednesday 17 October 2012, and Wednesday 28 February 2013.

Since then, officials from the Department have continued to meet regularly with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and Arts Council England, to monitor delivery of the Plan and its related programmes.

The Department has no plans to publish minutes of monitoring board meetings.

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 262412, 13 June 2019

Asked by: McGinn, Conor | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much funding has been allocated from the public purse to Music Education Hubs in local authority areas in (a) Merseyside, (b) the North West and (c) England and Wales since 2011.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |

Department: Department for Education

The Government's music hub programme, which has been in place in England since 2012/13, is intended to ensure all children have access to a high-quality music education, including learning to play musical instruments and having the opportunity to play and sing in ensembles.

A breakdown of core funding allocations for the areas requested is provided in the tables below.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
St Helens Music Hub	£152,637	£196,771	£198,850	£258,548
Merseyside (excluding Wirral)	£1,155,039	£1,409,227	£1,186,226	£1,534,658
North West	£7,160,329	£8,970,650	£8,069,841	£10,402,339
England	£50,014,480	£62,628,293	£58,187,226	£75,000,000

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
St Helens Music Hub	£255,889	£252,312	£254,068	£255,072
Merseyside (excluding Wirral)	£1,520,913	£1,510,038	£1,517,280	£1,526,954
North West	£10,405,255	£10,395,497	£10,474,949	£10,560,167
England	£75,000,000	£75,000,000	£75,490,000	£75,840,004

The information requested is not held centrally regarding the total number or proportion of children who learn to play musical instruments at school. However, music is compulsory in the national curriculum for 5-14 year old pupils, and the national curriculum programmes of study say that children should have the opportunity to learn an instrument in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3.

The music education hubs do record the number of pupils receiving individual or group lessons through the hub lead organisation or hub partners. Figures for the areas requested, based on the Department's latest published music education hub data report in 2016/17 and broken down by level of study rather than age group, are included below.

	Entry	Foundatio n	Intermediat e	Advance d	Total
St Helens Music Hub	3,154	881	122	55	4,212
Merseyside (excl. Wirral)	28,143	3,892	816	337	33,188
North West	118,537	26,958	3,933	1,407	150,835
England	885,798	210,898	43,882	19,840	1,160,108

The music hubs programme is only funded by the Department for Education in England. The figures provided for Merseyside do not include the Wirral because the area is covered by the Musical Routes Hub, which also covers Cheshire West and Chester.

[Extracurricular Activities](#), HC, PQ 234837, 25 March 2019

Asked by: Hayes, Helen | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of recent changes in funding for schools on the provision for extracurricular activities in schools including the creative and performing arts.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |
Department: Department for Education

Schools provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities. For example, a report by Birmingham City University published by Arts Council England shows that in 2016/17 schools delivered over 8,600 ensembles and choirs in partnership with their local music education hub. They also delivered over 31,000 ensembles and choirs independently. Between 2016/20 the Department is spending almost £500 million on a range of creative arts and cultural education programmes that take place in and out of

school. The Arts Council England report is available here:
https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/KeyDataOnMusicEducationHubs2017_0.pdf.

The vast majority of school funding is given to schools through the Dedicated Schools Grant. Schools are free to choose how they spend this to support their pupils, and this includes decisions on funding extracurricular activities. The Department trusts schools and head teachers to spend their budgets in a way that achieves the best outcomes.

[Music: Education](#), HL14231, 18 March 2019

Asked by: Lord Wallace of Saltaire | **Party:** Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the resources available to music education hubs.

Answering member: Lord Agnew of Oulton | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

The work of music education hubs is evaluated in an annual report by Birmingham City University and published by Arts Council England. The most recent report, attached, was published in October 2018. It shows that the hubs taught over 700,000 children to play a musical instrument, as part of whole class ensemble teaching, in 2016-17. The hubs provided individual lessons for over 157,000 children, lessons in small groups for over 238,000 children and lessons in larger groups for over 145,000 children. They also supported or delivered over 16,000 musical ensembles.

We are refreshing the National Plan for Music Education and, as part of this, we will be considering the roles of the music education hubs and how best their work should be evaluated.

Earlier this year, we announced additional funding for music education hubs, providing them with an extra £490,000 for 2018-19 and an additional £840,000 for 2019-20. The increases in funding recognise a range of pressures on hubs, including pressures linked to teacher pay. The department's public consultation to gather evidence on the impact of increased contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) for all TPS employers, which included the initial proposal to fund music education hubs for 2019-20, closed on 12 February 2019. Final funding decisions will be made in due course when consultation evidence has been reviewed. Funding for music education hubs beyond March 2020 is a matter for the forthcoming Spending Review.

[Music: Education](#), HL14088, 8 March 2019

Asked by: The Earl of Clancarty | **Party:** Crossbench

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will clarify the roles and responsibilities of (1) schools, and (2) music education hubs, with regard to the delivery of music education.

Answering member: Lord Agnew of Oulton | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

It is the role of schools to deliver the curriculum. Music education hubs were established to drive up the quality and consistency of

music education across the country, and to that end are funded to work with children in all state-funded schools in England. This means that hubs work with all schools, including academies and free schools, to meet local needs, at the same time as ensuring that all children experience high quality music education. The roles and responsibilities of schools and music education hubs are detailed in the national plan for music education, attached, which the department has committed to refreshing for 2020 and beyond.

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 200591, 13 December 2018

Asked by: Brennan, Kevin | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent support he has given to music conservatoires.

Answering member: Margot James | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

The Arts Council England (ACE) invests substantially in supporting the music education landscape. The Arts Council's £75m investment in music education hubs reflects the government's belief that all students should have access to an excellent, well-rounded education which includes the arts and music. ACE has also recently provided funding to Leeds College of Music for a festival of cutting edge music, sound art and visual installations; and the Royal Northern College of Music for the 2018 RNCM Brass Band Festival.

In particular, ACE supports the orchestral sector's engagement with conservatoires by working with Conservatoires UK to encourage collaboration between conservatories and the ACE National Youth Music Organisations, National Portfolio Organisations and Music Education Hubs.

[Children: Musical Instruments](#), HL11533, 22 November 2018

Asked by: Lord Kennedy of Southwark | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many children learn to play a musical instrument in school; and whether the number has risen or fallen since 1997.

Answering member: Lord Agnew of Oulton | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

Information regarding the total number of children who have learned to play musical instruments at school since 1997 is not held centrally. However, according to the data for 2016/17, recently published by Arts Council England, 711,241 pupils learned to play instruments together as a whole class through the music education hub network. The equivalent figure for 2012/13 was 531,422.

Music is compulsory in the National Curriculum for pupils aged 5-14. The National Curriculum programmes of study for music say that children should be taught to play instruments in key stages 1, 2 and 3. In maintained schools, pupils also have an entitlement in key stage 4 to study an arts subject (which includes music) if they wish.

[Education: GCSE Music](#), HL, volume 793 c451, 17 October 2018

Asked by: Lord Black of Brentwood | **Party:** Conservative Party

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an assessment of the number of pupils who took GCSE Music in the last academic year.

Oral questions - Lead

Answering member: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education (Lord Agnew of Oulton) (Con) | **Party:** Conservative Party

My Lords, there were 31,000 entries to music GCSE in England this year, and the proportion of pupils taking music GCSE between 2010 and 2018 has remained broadly stable. Music is compulsory in the curriculum for local authority maintained schools for key stages 1 to 3, and pupils have an entitlement to study an arts subject, including music, at key stage 4 if they wish. We are investing more than £300 million up to 2020 in music education.

[Music: Primary Education](#), HL6873, 30 April 2018

Asked by: Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury | **Party:** Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reports or assessments they have made or received on the quality and quantity of music education at primary level education outside school activities since September 2015; and in each case for which year.

Answering member: Lord Agnew of Oulton | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

Responses to the Department for Education's 'Teacher Voice Omnibus' Survey (conducted between May and June 2016), indicated that the median average time primary school teachers spent teaching music as a dedicated subject was 30 minutes per week. The amount of provision and support provided by music education hubs to augment this, is set out in annual reports published by Arts Council England. In 2015/16, the latest year for which data has been published, hubs provided or supported 14,866 ensembles and choirs, including 6,887 that are area-based. 342,225 children and young people regularly took part in these, including 34,724 key stage 1 pupils and 174,657 key stage 2 pupils. The 2015/16 report is attached.

[Music: Primary Education](#), HL6872, 30 April 2018

Asked by: Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury | **Party:** Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reports or assessments they have made or received on the quality and quantity of music education provided by schools at primary level, including how this has been augmented and supported by music education hubs; and in each case for which year.

Answering member: Lord Agnew of Oulton | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

Responses to the Department for Education's 'Teacher Voice Omnibus' Survey (conducted between May and June 2016), indicated that the median average time primary school teachers spent teaching music as a dedicated subject was 30 minutes per week. The amount of provision and support provided by music education hubs to augment this, is set out in annual reports published by Arts Council England. In 2015/16, the latest year for which data has been published, hubs provided or supported 14,866 ensembles and choirs, including 6,887 that are area-based. 342,225 children and young people regularly took part in these, including 34,724 key stage 1 pupils and 174,657 key stage 2 pupils. The 2015/16 report is attached.

[Music: Education](#), HL6871, 30 April 2018

Asked by: Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury | **Party:** Liberal Democrats

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made since April 2016 of the effect of changes to funding of local music services on community music ensembles, particularly youth music ensembles and choirs, and on progression routes through to national ensembles and conservatoires for the most talented.

Answering member: Lord Agnew of Oulton | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

In addition to funding that schools receive to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, department funding for music education hubs has increased from £58 million in 2014/15 to £75 million each year until 2020. Music education hubs support and enhance the quality of music teaching in schools, reaching beyond school boundaries, to ensure that the aims of the National Plan are delivered. In addition, we recently announced £96 million for arts education in 2018-20, including over £60 million for the Music and Dance Scheme, which enables our most talented young musicians to attend specialist institutions.

Since April 2016 the department has not made any assessment of the effect of changes to funding of local music services. However, since 2013, Arts Council England has commissioned an independent analysis of Music Education Hubs' annual performance. The reports, which provide information on music education hubs' activities, including their support for ensembles and choirs, are at: www.artscouncil.org.uk/children-and-young-people/music-education-hubs-survey The most recent of these reports is attached.

[Arts: Education](#), HC, PQ 127217, 20 February 2018

Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate he has made of his Department's funding for arts and music education in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools in England in each of the last five years.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |
Department: Department for Education

The Department is investing an additional £1.3 billion in school funding, over and above existing expenditure, with core schools funding rising from almost £41 billion in 2017-18 to £43.5 billion in 2019-20.

In addition to funding which schools receive to deliver their curriculum, the Government funds a wide range of music and cultural education programmes to ensure that every child, whatever their background, has access to a high quality arts education. The attached table shows total funding from the Department for these programmes.

In maintained schools, music and art and design are compulsory subjects and although academies and free schools are not required to teach the national curriculum, they can use it as a benchmark. Beyond this, it is for schools to decide how best to deliver their curriculum and we have not made an assessment of trends in the level of expenditure from the public purse on (a) time, (b) staff and (c) facilities associated with the creative arts in schools across England.

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 124069, 25 January 2018

Asked by: Timms, Stephen | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the benefits of music education in schools.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |
Department: Department for Education

The Department is providing £300 million of ring-fenced funding from 2016-20 to Music Education Hubs (MEHs). The national network of 120 MEHs ensures that all children, whatever their background, have access to a high quality music education, including learning to play musical instruments and having the opportunity to play and sing in ensembles.

The Department also supports music education through funding: National Youth Music Organisations such as the National Youth Orchestra; In Harmony, which aims to inspire and transform the lives of children in disadvantaged areas in England through community-based orchestral music-making; and Music for Youth in providing opportunities for young people and families to perform in and attend regional and national festivals and concerts, who might not otherwise have had access.

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 120514, 8 January 2018

Asked by: McCarthy, Kerry | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when she plans to review the National Plan for Music Education.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |
Department: Department for Education

The National Plan for Music Education sets out a vision for music education that gives children from all backgrounds and every part

of England the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing; and to have the opportunity to progress. The Department continues to have regular meetings with music teachers to discuss aspects of the National Plan for Music Education. The current plan runs until 2020 and any proposals for a review or extension of the Plan will be announced in 2018.

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 116645, 7 December 2017

Asked by: McCarthy, Kerry | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions her Department has had with music educators on the National Plan for Music Education; and whether that Plan should (a) include Early Years, (b) recognise informal pathways for young musicians and (c) continue with universal provision or be focussed on disadvantaged children.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Education

The Department has regular meetings with music educators to discuss aspects of the National Plan for Music Education. Music teaching starts in the early years and the plan provides a template for high quality music education throughout a pupil's education, both in and out of school, in both formal and informal settings. Our vision continues to be that children from all backgrounds and every part of England have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing; and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level. We will continue to consider the best way of ensuring that disadvantaged children can benefit from all programmes we fund.

[Arts: Coventry South](#), HC, PQ 115804, 30 November 2017

Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport, how much funding her Department has allocated in grants for the arts to Coventry South constituency in each of the last five years.

Answering member: John Glen | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Through Arts Council England, Government has invested over £13m into the Coventry South constituency over the past 5 years (2012/13-2016/17). The table below outlines this funding in detail.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
National Portfolio Organisations	£ 1,641,102.60	£ 1,569,376.31	£ 1,578,179.44	£ 1,501,557.00	£ 1,501,557.00
Music Education Hubs	£ 295,869.00	£ 380,991.00	£ 381,854.00	£ 498,525.00	£ 503,817.00
Grants for the arts	£ 115,297.00	£ 192,268.00	£ 119,007.00	£ 107,347.00	£ 218,604.00

Strategic	£ 1,355,160. 00	£ 374,216.0 0	£ 281,141.0 0	£ 209,925.0 0	£ 208,000.0 0
Grand Total	£ 3,407,428. 60	£ 2,516,851. 31	£ 2,360,181. 44	£ 2,317,354. 00	£ 2,431,978. 00

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 107312, 20 October 2017

Asked by: Ruane, Chris | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children have been taught music in schools in each constituency in each of the last three years.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |

Department: Department for Education

The Department does not record the number of pupils being taught particular subjects. The Department records the number of pupils entering into GCSE and A level examinations for each subject. This provides the best proxy for the figure requested; this figure is for local authorities and not constituencies.

The figures for the past three years (2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16) are published online[1].

The figures for 2016/17 entries are not available yet and will be published in January 2018[2].

The Department's national network of 120 music education hubs ensures that all pupils aged 5 to 18 have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others and learn to sing.

[1]<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/download-data> - Select the year, then 'all of England', 'key stage 4 qualification and subject data' and then download the Excel file. You can then sum the entries in music, for each school, within each local authority

[2]The data will be available here: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/download-data>

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 7887, 7 September 2017

Asked by: Keeley, Barbara | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to promote music education and support the development of future professional musicians in the UK.

Answering member: John Glen | **Party:** Conservative Party |

Department: Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

This country has an incredible musical history and the Government wants to ensure that this continues. This Government's introduction of music education hubs has built on and enhanced the music education provision that existed. Music hubs have brought together new partnerships between music services, schools, education and arts organisations.

The Government also funds six In Harmony programmes across the country. In Harmony is an intensive music programme for

children and young people from disadvantaged communities, using the inspiration and discipline of orchestral music making to raise aspiration, support children's attainment and enhance families, and communities.

Many Arts Council England funded music organisations also run their own education programmes that support and engage with children and young people.

In October 2016, Music Export Growth Scheme (MEGS) relaunched, making £2.8 million of grant support available to independent music small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) up to 2020. It was developed in partnership with the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) to help support the launch of UK music acts to international audiences and is funded by the Department for International Trade.

The Rehearsal Room Scheme was originally created by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and UK Music. UK Music continue to oversee the scheme which has seen £440,000 invested in 14 pilot music rehearsal spaces were created for young people in a range of urban and rural areas of England experiencing multiple deprivation. The funds were used to provide instruments and equipment, and contributed towards the cost of necessary capital works, such as sound proofing.

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 2524, 11 July 2017

Asked by: Johnson, Diana | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much funding was allocated to Music Education Hubs, by NUTS1 Territorial Units for Statistics for each year for which information is available.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |

Department: Department for Education

Music hub allocations for financial years 2012 to 2018 are shown in the table below at regional level.

Region	2012-13*	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
NORTH EAST	£4,630,090	£3,984,193	£2,867,978	£3,694,678	£3,665,778	£3,661,419
NORTH WEST	£10,740,493	£8,970,650	£8,069,841	£10,402,339	£10,405,255	£10,395,497
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBUR	£8,350,274	£6,935,045	£5,946,810	£7,720,750	£7,711,292	£7,698,074
EAST MIDLANDS	£5,667,357	£4,916,788	£4,952,091	£6,415,320	£6,408,040	£6,394,915
WEST MIDLANDS	£9,019,523	£7,412,331	£6,576,074	£8,505,630	£8,506,918	£8,529,109
EAST OF ENGLAND	£7,951,238	£6,729,946	£6,353,603	£8,223,572	£8,223,823	£8,221,605
LONDON	£10,851,646	£9,138,180	£8,964,396	£11,645,094	£11,694,476	£11,732,347
SOUTH EAST	£11,299,122	£9,444,750	£8,910,121	£11,506,576	£11,505,665	£11,490,422
SOUTH WEST	£6,490,257	£5,468,117	£5,359,086	£6,886,040	£6,878,754	£6,876,612
Total	£75,000,000	£63,000,000	£58,000,000	£75,000,000	£75,000,000	£75,000,000

*For 2012-13, 25% of the allocation went to local authorities for April-July, and 75% to the new music hubs for August-March.

[Music: Education](#), HC, PQ 962, 29 June 2017

Asked by: Debbonaire, Thangam | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of students in state maintained schools were (a) offered and (b) took up (i) musical instrument lessons, (ii) free or means-tested music tuition and (iii) free or means-tested access to musical instruments in each of the last three years.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party |
Department: Department for Education

The National Curriculum sets the expectation that all pupils should be taught to play a musical instrument. Maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum; academies have greater flexibility.

The Government is investing £300 million for music education hubs in 2016 to 2020 to ensure all pupils, whatever their background, have access to a high quality music education, including learning to play musical instruments and having the opportunity to play and sing in ensembles. Hubs are also expected to ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people and to provide an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those on low incomes.

The Department does not hold the data in the format requested. The table below shows the number of pupils in Key Stages 1 to 5 that participated in music lessons that were organised by music education hubs. The data are for the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15, which are the three most recent academic years for which data has been published.

Further data on music education hubs can be found on Arts Council England’s website:

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/children-and-young-people/music-education-hubs-survey>.

Access to music lessons by pupils in Key Stages 1 to 5 in England via music education hubs

Academic year	Individual singing/instrumental lessons	Singing/instrumental lessons in small groups	Singing instrumental lessons in large groups (not including WCET)	Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET)
2012/13	n/a	n/a	n/a	531,422
2013/14	n/a	n/a	n/a	596,820
2014/15	133,127	265,768	103,046	631,223

n/a = data not available Source: Music Education Hubs Survey

3.2 Oral Questions

[Music Provision in Schools](#), HC, volume 638 c379, 22 March 2018

Asked by: Luke Graham (Ochil and South Perthshire) (Con) |

Party: Conservative Party

Owing to stinging cuts from Edinburgh, local authorities in my constituency have had to face cuts to music education. Is there anything that my right hon. Friend can do to provide support from Westminster to local authorities in Scotland, to protect the services that the SNP will not?

Oral questions - Supplementary

Answering member: Matt Hancock | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

As my hon. Friend knows, we have protected per pupil funding in England, but of course education is devolved in Scotland. I do not know whether the Scottish Government have provided anything like the support that we have for music education hubs here in England. The money that we have put into music education hubs goes an awfully long way, and frankly it looks like the SNP Government need to do more.

[Youth Orchestras](#), HL, volume 787 c1155, 7 December 2017

Asked by: Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall (Lab) | **Party:** Labour Party

I am sure the Minister is aware that youth orchestras in this country, and indeed elsewhere, perform to an extremely high standard, and that the young people who participate put in hours and hours of work although not all—fewer than half of them—actually anticipate having a career as a professional musician. What we need in order to keep those standards up is a good supply of young people who have the skills to take part. What proportion of children and young people in the maintained sector have affordable access to music tuition for long enough to bed in the skills that they need to perform to that standard?

Oral questions - Supplementary

Answering member: Lord Ashton of Hyde | **Party:** Conservative Party

I cannot give exactly the proportions that the noble Baroness has asked for. I can say that we have music education hubs, which were established after the Henley review into music education in 2011. There are 120 music education hubs in place, and they are funded by the Department for Education and overseen by Arts Council England. They create joined-up, high-quality music opportunities for all children and young people in and out of school, and the Government spend £75 million a year on this.

About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email hcinfo@parliament.uk.

Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).