Schools Instrumental Booster Scheme

What is it?

The Booster Scheme is a special project to encourage take-up of instruments currently not available in a school or setting. **This project has no financial cost to school or parent!**

What do we provide?

- The instrument offered will be agreed by the service and the school. The availability of sufficient instruments, a tutor to provide the lessons and the instrumental learning already available in school for the identified age group will be taken into account in the selection. This scheme is mainly to support the development of players of string instruments not including guitars and ukuleles, double reed instruments such as oboes and bassoons, rarer brass instruments such as French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium and Tuba and Orchestral Percussion. A single instrument will be offered to the whole group as the purpose is to learn and develop together. Learners and their families will be required to commit to the whole opportunity including associated activities such as ensembles and events as well as the practice required to maximise the progression.

- We will assess the musical potential of pupils put forward with the setting or school and offer the opportunity to a selection of pupils identified jointly by the school and ourselves who will be able to make the best use of the opportunity. The assessment is based on responses to simple pitch, rhythm and ensemble playing using well-established mechanisms to measure musicianship and an observation of their participation in the session, together with background information from the school. For those who cannot join the first opportunity in the year we will hold a waiting list in case of drop out or to take advantage at the next earliest opportunity.

- The size of group will depend on available instruments and appropriate pedagogical learning for the instrument and the space available. The norm will be for one or more 30 minute sessions with 6 pupils in each group.

More...
• There is no charge for the lesson or instrument for up to 2 hours of time booked by a school for 18 weekly sessions starting either in September or at February half-term. At the end of the period the service will provide the opportunity for continuing learning at normal rates. Pupils can continue on their instrument or transfer to other instruments if they so wish.

• The instrument is provided by us as part of the project, along with special events with guest artists when available, ensemble opportunities and support for families with regards to helping young musicians at home.

What responsibilities do you have?

• Schools must provide a suitable learning environment for the lesson.
• Schools will work with the service to identify appropriate pupils and invite them to take advantage of the opportunity, celebrating their progress in school where possible.
• Schools and parents/carers provide support for learning, particularly practice in between lessons.
• Parents and carers purchase relevant music books and instrument consumables e.g. strings, reeds.

What does the cost include?

The provision includes the assessment, lessons, instrument provision, access to any special events and support.

Who can benefit?

Our priorities will be to develop young musicians in Year 7 or Primary Schools but we will consider all requests from secondary schools and academies to offer it to year groups on an individual basis according to need and the instruments missing in a setting. If pupils learning an instrument already are interested in changing or gaining a second skill, they will be able to make use of this scheme in school as long as there are sufficient other learners.

What does it cost?

Only enthusiasm and a desire to develop young musicians! This project is fully subsidised.

How do I join the project?

Email us on cm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call us on 01480 373500 and ask about joining the Instrument Booster project. One of our management team will arrange to speak with you to set up the project.