

Dear Headteacher/Head of Music/Music Lead,

05/01/2026

I am delighted to begin the New Year by announcing the launch of One Education Music's new *Music Access Award*.

As Manchester's music service, One Education Music remains committed to supporting schools in providing access to music for pupils who face barriers. We recognise the tremendous efforts schools already make in this regard, often under significant financial pressures, and hope this award will offer targeted support for pupils demonstrating musical progress and potential.

Each Manchester secondary school and special school setting is eligible to apply for a one-off award of up to **£1,500**, to be used within the 2025/26 academic year. The terms of accepting the award are as follows:

- All monies received as part of this award must only be used for the specific purpose of **delivering music activities** for pupils within the funding period. The funding should **support pupils facing barriers to access** (e.g. pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium/FSM) as identified/assessed by the school. Please note, this **must not** include the purchase of any instruments or equipment, hire of venues, or contribution towards any other capital costs.
- You agree to complete an **annual data return**, to include details of how the money has been spent, any additional match funding received for music provision, and impact/participation data.
- Your school **must attend at least one school network meeting during the funded period**. This can include One Education Music's Primary School Network, High School Network, or SEND/AP Network, which all meet on a termly basis. Head of Music details should be added below and schools must notify One Education of any changes in Head of Music/Music Lead contact within the funded period.
- You agree to provide further details of music provision/schemes of work/allow a visit to provision for **quality assurances** purposes as appropriate given sufficient notice relating to funded activity, or provide details of how the funded activity will be quality assured as appropriate.
- Funding is provided as a **one-off payment** for the funded period. There is no guarantee of further funding. Should further funding be made available, all schools will need to reapply.
- The school can demonstrate that the award amount received accounts for **no more than 50% of the total spend** on music provision for the funding period.
- any staff undertaking any grant funded delivery will be **appropriately trained** and have **undergone appropriate checks** (including DBS clearance) to work in a school setting.
- You acknowledge that you may have to repay any funding if the terms of this agreement are not upheld.

How to Apply

Applying for the **Music Access Award** is simple! Just visit www.oneeducationmusic.co.uk/access and complete the short application form. Once submitted, our team will review your application and issue an Award Agreement to successful schools. Payments are usually processed within **14 days** of receiving your signed agreement. As a mark of recognition, each awarded school will also receive a **Music Access Award accreditation logo**—a great way to showcase your commitment to widening access to music.

Music Centres & Other Pathways

Does your school currently lack provision for a particular instrument or musical pathway? Our **six [Music Centres](#)** across Manchester offer a wide range of opportunities for pupils of all abilities and interests, from classical to contemporary genres. These centres provide easy access to [out-of-school music provision](#) right across the city.

We can also arrange [in-school tuition options](#) (including parent-billed lessons) or connect you with a network of local partners offering specialist pathways. If you'd like to explore these options for your pupils, **get in touch - we'd love to help!**

Best Wishes,



Adam Cooke
Head of Service, One Education Music