

Lead Schools for Music

The Power of Music to Change Lives: [The National Plan for Music Education](#) details the requirement for Music Hub Lead Organisations (HLO) to appoint schools to join their Music Hub Partnership as Lead Schools for Music.

For each local authority area a Music Hub encompasses, HLO are expected to appoint at least one Primary, one Secondary and a Special School or alternative provision setting as a Lead School for their locality.

What is a Lead School?

Lead schools will exemplify best practice of what high quality music education could and should look like. They will demonstrate a commitment to their music curriculum delivery with a significant timetable, inclusive provision, and a clear focus on curriculum and workforce development.

Music will be at the heart of Lead Schools through their demonstration of excellence across their music curricular, co-curricular offer and the range of music enrichment opportunities they provide for their pupils. They will have a rich musical culture, links to the wider community, strong subject leadership and management and school leadership that supports and advocates for music education.

What will Lead School do?

Lead Schools will demonstrate and champion curriculum excellence and improvement to embed stronger practice and support effective professional development for schools and teachers in their locality.

Working with HLO, Lead Schools will support and built upon the needs of the pupils, teachers, and schools within their Hub locality.

This will include:

- Collaborative working with other Lead Schools to develop and deliver a Music Hub workforce development plan each year.
- Facilitate and provide CPD opportunities for schools and professionals in their Hub locality.
- Coordination professional networking opportunities to promote and disseminate best practice and develop a wider community of support for music leads in schools.
- Provide mentoring and peer support for schools in their locality where music is developing.
- Build a resource bank for hub schools and share best practice by enabling colleagues from schools in their locality observe them at work.

Lead Schools will initially be appointed for a period of two years, with a review at 18 months to help schools and the HLO consider future arrangements for Lead Schools.

As part of the appointment process a partnership agreement will be established with each Lead School to define the responsibilities of the Lead School and HLO in Lead School arrangements.

What are the benefits of being a Lead School?

The benefits of being a Lead School may include:

- Distinction as a Lead School with exemplary music education provision in the Music Hub
- The opportunity to influence the landscape of music education within the Music Hub
- Career and professional development opportunity for subject leaders

Funding Arrangements

Lead Schools will not receive any direct remuneration from the Music Grant for their appointment.

Lead schools may gain financial remuneration for the work they undertake on behalf of the Music Hub for the delivery of specific support to other schools, groups of schools or teachers such as the delivery of curriculum consultancy or CPD programmes. The full detail of which will be agreed and defined within the partnership agreement established with Lead Schools following the conclusion of the appointment stage.

To assist schools in their application to become a Lead School, Heart of England Music anticipates the charges Lead Schools may apply for their work for schools and teachers to fall within the ranges detailed in the illustrative charges table below. The final detail of these charges will be agreed with Lead schools through a partnership agreement as part of the appointment process.

Lead School illustrative charges table:

Support Type:	Illustrative Charge Rates:
CPD Session (Full Day Plan & Deliver)	Up to £650.00
CPD Session (Half Day Plan & Deliver)	Up to £425.00
CPD Session (90 min. Twilight Plan & Deliver)	Up to £250.00
School Music Development Planning meeting (90 mins)	Up to £250.00
Curriculum Audit, Mapping or Planning Support	Up to £600.00 per day
	Up to £400.00 per half day
Other Hub Directed Activities	Up to £60 per hour

The appointment process

To initiate the appointment process schools are invited to submit an expression of interest in becoming a Lead School. This should be in the form of a letter emailed to us from your Head Teacher simply confirming your interest and intention to apply to become a Lead School.

The Music Hub Lead Organisation in each area local authority area will then offer to meet with interested schools to provide advice and to support to complete a Lead School application.

The application form will comprise a series of questions based upon criteria set by the Department for Education and Arts Council England including, the school's capacity to undertake the role of a lead school. Information about the quality, breadth and impact of the school's music curriculum, co-curriculum and wider enrichment offer. The school's commitment to curriculum and professional development and track record of engaging with the Music Hub and supporting the delivery of music education in their locality.

Applications will also include a supporting letter from the Head Teacher, Chair of Governor's and where applicable their Multi Academy Trust, and a copy of the school's most recent Music Curriculum Audit and Music Development Plan. All applications will be assessed by members of the independent Music Hub Board.

Expression of interest

Please email a letter expressing your interest in becoming a Lead School to:

info@heartofenglandmusic.com by 24th January 2025

Appointment timeframe

Activity:	Date(s):
Expressions of interest invited from schools from	6 th January 2025
Closing date for expressions of interest	24 th January 2025
Application forms and meeting invitations sent to schools from	29 th January 2025
Application closing date	28 th February 2025
Assessment period begins	3 rd March 2025
Application outcome notifications	21 st March 2025
Appointment confirmation process initiated	28 th March 2025
Partnership Agreements established	April onwards
Lead School planning and development time	May to July 2025
Lead School partnership initiated from	September 2025

Further information

For questions and further information about Lead Schools and the application process, please do contact the Hub Lead School contact for your locality:

Contacts:

Coventry	Claire Tyler	Claire.Tyler@coventry.gov.uk
Warwickshire	Kay Hinkle	kayhinkle@warwickshire.gov.uk
Solihull	Richard Jones	richard.jones@solihull.gov.uk

I do hope that your school or education setting will consider becoming a Lead School to help shape the Music Education landscape across the Heart of England Music Hub Area.

If I can be of any assistance, please do contact me.

Richard

Richard Hart

**Strategic Lead Schools & Progression
Heart of England Music**

E: richardhart@warwickshire.gov.uk