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# Your child and music at transition

Tips for year 6 parents and carers

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## Moving from primary to secondary school is a new adventure.

There's a lot to think about: from uniform, to friendships, to new routines. Music lessons may be the last thing on your mind.

Yet this is the best time for young people to either continue with their existing music lessons or take them up for the first time. They'll grow in confidence and develop important life skills that will help them settle in.

Sadly, it's at this stage that some young people drop out of music lessons – and once they do, they may never return. That's something they may regret for a lifetime.



# What you can do



## 1 If your child already has an instrumental/vocal tutor, ask them about lessons in secondary school

They may know which instrumental/vocal tutors teach at your child's future secondary school. Many tutors know each other. If you're keen to remain with your current tutor, ask them if they teach privately.

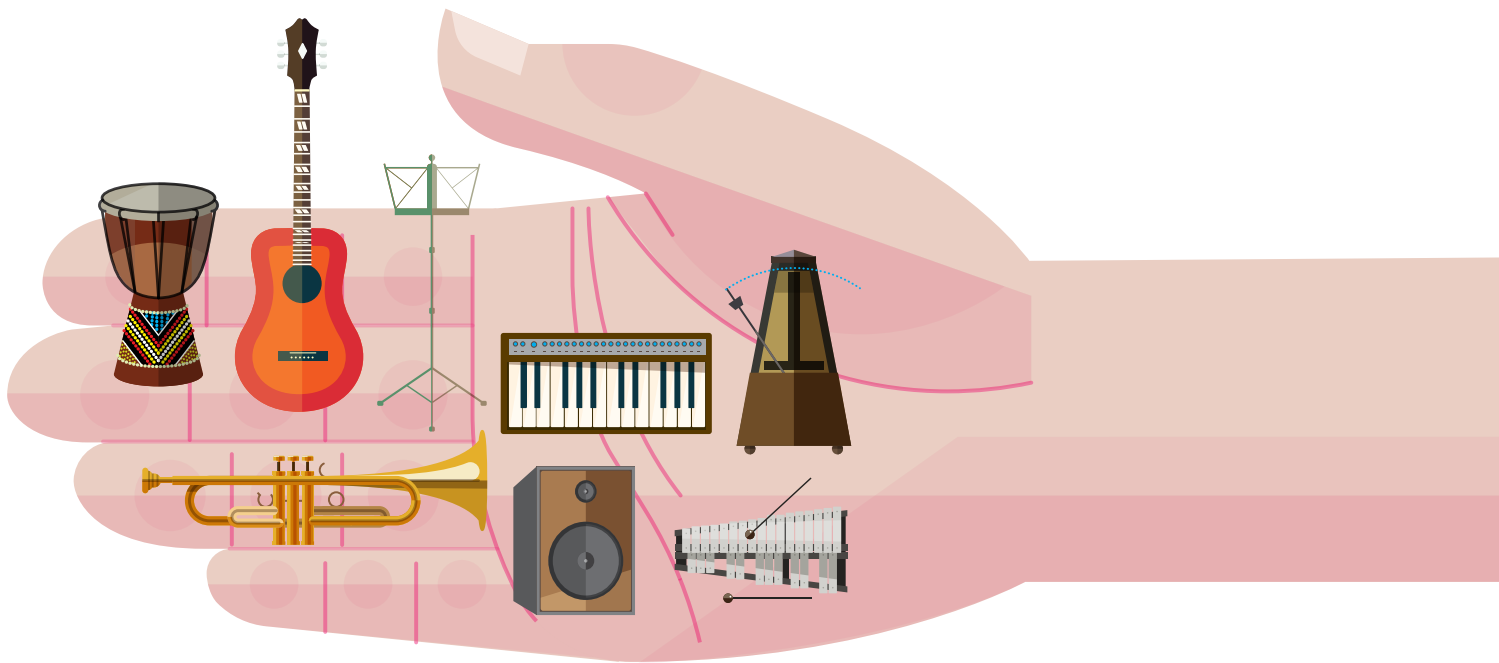
## 2 If they don't, now's a great time to consider learning. Ask about music at your secondary school parents evening or open day

Often the head of music/performing arts, music teacher/s, or instrumental/vocal tutors will be on hand to answer any questions.

## 3 Look for the music lesson information in your child's induction pack

Schools will usually ask you to sign up for music lessons the term before the start of secondary school. Leaving it too late may mean there are no spaces left or your child is allocated lessons in their second or third choice of instrument. Make sure to sign up as soon as possible.



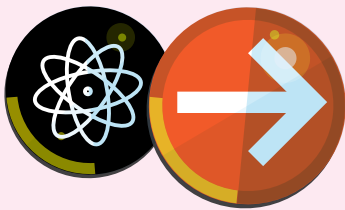


## 4 What if lessons on offer aren't appealing?

Schools can't cater for everyone's preferences, but it's important that there's something that could spark your child's interest. If what's on offer at school isn't appealing, tell the school. Chances are that other pupils are feeling the same.

## 5 Find out about other opportunities to learn and make music through school, within and outside the curriculum

Ask at parents evening about how often curriculum music takes place, and for how long. Ask about other opportunities like lunchtime or afterschool clubs, performances, links with other organisations like local music centres, festivals, or groups/ensembles.



# Supporting your child in music:

an investment in unlocking their potential



Most people know that music is a 'good thing'. Research proves again and again that it is so important to children and young people's lives and futures.

## Why?

### Because music education...

#### increases confidence and self-esteem

which has a knock-on effect in all areas of their life and learning

#### improves health and wellbeing

reducing stress, increasing a sense of wellbeing and happiness

#### provides important life and social skills

such as listening, concentration, working as a team

#### develops creativity and self-expression

helping young people to think differently and develop their power of imagination

#### improves cognition, literacy and numeracy

recent neuroscience research has shown that children who learn an instrument have higher levels of cognitive capacity, specifically in their language acquisition and numerical problem solving skills

#### can be the key to unlocking potential

particularly for young people who are strongly creative, or who struggle to engage with other areas of learning

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This resource was originally devised by Wiltshire Music Connect (Wiltshire Council) during its tenure as the Music Education Hub for Wiltshire.

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