



Financial Support for HMS Music Tuition for September 2022 to July 2023

Following feedback, we have made some changes to the financial support scheme, for lessons we provide, between September 2022 and July 2023. We have increased the available funding to the most vulnerable families in Hertfordshire and created a simpler way for everyone to apply.

Funding is available for eligible families at 50% and 100% (means-tested financial support)

We are pleased to announce that we **have increased the funding available for HMS lessons** starting in September 2022, and we will be able to help more children to discover or develop their musical voice.

The eligibility criteria for 50% and 100% financial support has not changed from last year – details of the evidence needed and how to apply is on our [website here](#).

From September 2022, we will no longer be offering the 25% level of financial support. This temporary level of support was introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, but as the restrictions imposed due to the pandemic have now been lifted, the need for this funding has decreased and the requirement for higher levels of funding have increased. However more funding will be allocated for families eligible at the 50% or 100% funding levels.

A child's eligibility does not guarantee that they will receive financial support for music with HMS.

New way to apply for help with music fees for HMS lessons beginning in September

Following feedback we have made it easier and quicker for parents/carers to apply for funding.

They will now be able to apply for help with music fees directly to HMS, removing the need to apply to Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) first, and the evidence of their eligibility can be sent directly to HMS.

Even if a family receives free school meals from HCC, parents/carers still need to apply separately for HMS music lesson funding.

Pupils funded for music lessons between September 2021 - July 2022

If parents/carers received financial support during September 2021 and July 2022, please note:

- the child's financial support for music lessons does not automatically continue to the next school year (starting September 2022)
- parents/carers will need to re-apply to HMS for funding in June 2022, with evidence of eligibility, for lessons starting in September 2022

Funding for music lessons from HMS is funded by the Arts Council England, therefore is separate from the funding families may be eligible for from HCC, such as free school meals or saver cards.

Financial support cannot be backdated, so please note that parents/carers should not apply to start lessons before financial support is confirmed, if they require this in order to pay the lesson fees.