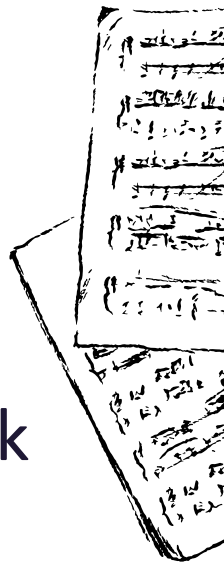




SLOUGH MUSIC SERVICE

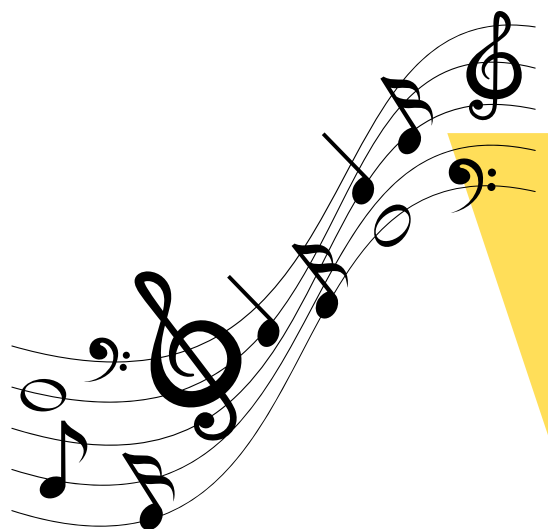
School Engagement Information Pack
2025/26



Slough Music Service

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About SMS



"Inspiring every
child's musical
journey
through
diversity,
progression,
and inclusion"

Our Aims:

- To make our offer bespoke to suit the needs of your school
- To ensure a high quality progressive service
- To engage with pupils and encourage opportunities such as performance and access to our clubs both inside and outside of school.

We can offer up to hour-long lessons. Parents may hire instruments from SMS at a very fair rate or purchase instruments through the SMS, VAT free!



Benefits of learning music

BOOST SELF ESTEEM

The incremental progress of learning music, expressing and performing, is a powerful confidence booster.

WORLD CULTURES

Learning music introduces children to a range of cultures and their history.

ACADEMIC SKILLS

Improving academic skills in areas such as maths, language & communication, cognition, and awareness. Learning music develops both the right and left sides of the brain simultaneously.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Learning music is a good way for pupils to meet like-minded peers. This cultivates social interaction, fosters teamwork, and empowers students with a sense of responsibility for their own learning outcomes.

As well as the above, music is great for wellbeing - a hands on way to learn! Learning music refines an individual's discipline, leadership, and patience, whilst developing practical and physical coordination skills. There's something for everyone!



Benefits of working with SMS

We are a local service, supported by the DfE and ACE, with a passion to support the children of our local community. We ensure high quality service with...

1

Experienced, friendly, diverse teachers, with specialisms across the board, and an understanding of the needs of our local community

2

Adaptive learning

3

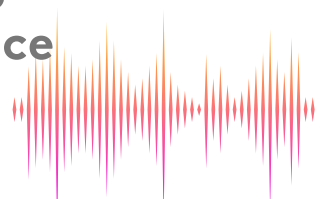
Progression routes for instruments, ensembles, and activities

4

Enhanced DBS-checked, safeguarding-trained teachers and freelance tutors

5

Ongoing commitment to inclusive practice





Benefits of working with SMS

We can support your school to become a music mark school

Music Mark

We are delighted to support schools to become a music mark school.

As a school you must meet the following criteria:

- Evidence and willingness to engage in music education-related development conversations in order to improve music provision.
- An inclusive strategy for music being in place
- Recognition of the value of music education as part of the broad curriculum

Benefits of being a Music Mark School:

Music Mark schools receive a range of benefits including:

- A certificate so that you can display your achievement
- Use of the exclusive Music Mark School logo pack
- Music Mark Members Area accounts for you and colleagues within your school
- Access to an extensive library of member-only resources
- Invites to attend our member-only events and training
- A discounted rate for the Music Mark Annual Conference
- A discounted rate when using our job vacancy advertising service and free adverts for voluntary roles
- Emailed newsletters to keep you up to date with the latest national and regional sector news, events, and resources
- Publication of your success stories on our website and in our social media
- Advocacy and campaigning on your behalf

SMS School music development plans

We can offer a bespoke consultation to develop your music education plan for your school. The first session is free, subsequent consultation sessions are charged at £45 an hour.

High
Quality
Progress

School music development plans builds on the model music curriculum and the new national plan for music education. The development plan helps you reflect on the needs of your pupils and aims to support every child's musical experience at school. Our curriculum coordinator will help create and review your document free of charge for the first hour. Subsequent hours will be charged at £45 an hour. Continue to consult with us annually to review your progress and set targets.

CPD at your school

This offer extends from our partnership with Berkshire Music Trust.
Our Lead schools for Slough are:

Primary – Langley Hall Primary Academy and Cippenham School

Secondary – Langley Grammar School

Opportunities & Events

Slough Music Service have always organised a number of larger events and projects throughout the year. Following the pandemic, we have now fully re-developed and re-introduced our singing, ensemble, and whole-class instrumental events with great success.

Performance opportunities

We encourage all pupils to take part in our performance opportunities.

These include:

- End of year assemblies – Individual, Small-group, and Whole-class learners
- Recitals at least once per academic year
- Battle of the Bands (Primary & Secondary)
- Everyone Can Play (whole-class) summer events
- Hexagon Summer Showcase concert (choirs, ensembles)
- Eton Carol Service
- Slough's Multi-Faith Carol Concert
- Slough Youth Orchestra Collective performance opportunities

Everyone Can Play: Whole-class students across schools learn two pieces to perform collectively at this exciting event - led by director Tom Horn!

Slough Carol Concert: Slough school and community choirs perform at a local church in our own multi-faith carols concert. It is a non-religious service and we invite groups to sing songs of their choice.

Eton Carol concert: Selected choirs are invited to join us in our annual festival of lessons and carols. This is a formal religious service and is by invite only. We aim to invite different choirs from our Slough schools each year to ensure all schools have the opportunity to take part.

Recitals: Concerts are delivered during the academic year, for beginner to intermediate, as well as more advanced students. These are short performances by our individual and small-group students covering all instruments and vocalists. Parents are invited to attend as they are evening performances.

Opportunities & Events

Demos in schools

We can arrange demonstrations at your school to promote music lessons. Demos from our music teachers will give students and parents an idea of what instruments sound like as well as an explanation of the format of lessons.

SMS Ensembles

Our extra- curricular ensembles are currently free to ensure accessibility for all and will remain so for as long as possible. These currently include music centre access (music tech, choirs, Rap School, and Early Ears club)

SYO (Weekly Youth Orchestra), and Collective Youth Ensembles across Slough. Some projects may include a transport or small project fee, but we work hard to keep these affordable or free.

One off music days and workshops

We can come into school to offer year group workshops for students and/or small performances by SMS staff from £45 per hour per music teacher.

CPD for school staff

Slough Music Service offers CPD to school staff. We also signpost schools to CPD available across Berkshire as part of our partnership with Berkshire Music Trust. Prices vary by event, and information is provided in our termly newsletters and email communications.

Opportunities & Events

African drumming, singing assemblies, and ensembles

A club of up to 15 children, after school/lunch club. Whole-school Singing Assemblies from £45 per hour.

Whole class ensemble tuition (WCET)

(Violin, Brass, Djembe, Recorder, Ukulele, Guitar, Mixed Percussion)

£300 per class per term (instrument hire for WCET charged at £100 and one member of staff)

You can hire any class/group set of instruments for £100 per term, per set (subject to availability, terms and conditions may apply).

Music production

Our latest area of development.

We are working with industry professionals to develop high quality music tech to all children interested.

We are currently developing a plan to incorporate recorded with live performance, so watch this space!

We also provide PPA cover. Please contact us for more information.

Examinations

We use various examination boards for the range of instruments we teach to ensure that they are accessible for all. It usually takes a student 15 to 24 months to be ready to take grade 1, depending on the instrument, practice, and aptitude. Slough Music Service updates parents on progress via practice notebooks and can be contacted for informal discussion termly, as well as providing end-of-year reports.

Depending on the examination board, the price of grade 1 varies between £44 and £53 for 2025 - 2026.

****Fees for exams and books are payable by parents in addition to tuition fees****

Slough Music Service have our own grading system which demonstrates progress from absolute beginner to ready to prepare for a nationally recognised grade 1 exam. Our teachers prepare a standardised assessment which is moderated by the music service team, before stars are awarded. Generally Grade 1 is a similar standard to a Gold Slough Star

Slough Stars Assessments are free for all pupils!

Bronze star: will take on average 1 term to achieve

Silver star: 2-3 terms are needed on average to complete

Gold star: This will take 3-4 terms on average to complete



<https://www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk/>

To make our offer bespoke to suit the needs of your school, contact us to discuss options!

Slough Music Service



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Email: music.service@slough.gov.uk

