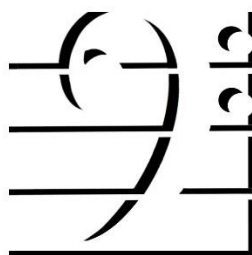




Instrumental Music Service



Report Session 2015 – 2016

Table of Contents

1	Vision, Values and Aims.....	2
2	The Instrumental Music Service	2
3	Charging Policy	3
4	Budget	4
5	National advice.....	4
6	Consultation	6
7	External examinations	10
8	Extra-curricular activities.....	10
9	Scottish Concert Band Festival Achievements	11
10	Aberdeenshire Youth Orchestra.....	11

1 VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

1.1 VISION

We believe that our Instrumental Music Service can make a major contribution to fulfilling the Council's Vision. * Our ambition is to offer the best opportunities for as many people as possible to benefit from our Service. We will enrich the lives of the citizens of Aberdeenshire through music.

1.2 VALUES

We uphold the Education and Children's Services values of quality, equality, engagement and integrity by our commitment to pupils and parents.

1.3 AIMS

- To enrich the lives of people and to contribute to their personal, social and intellectual development
- To provide opportunities for all to benefit from learning music
- To provide opportunities for pupils and the wider community to experience a broad range of music-making
- To work in partnership with schools, organisations and individuals
- To enable students to develop confidence and self-esteem through the attainment of instrumental and vocal skills

* "Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland"

2 THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE

2.1 CORE SERVICE

The Instrumental Music Service (IMS) operates in all 17 Community School Networks across Aberdeenshire, providing group and individual lessons to 2651 pupils throughout the school year. There are 56 instrumental instructors with a full time equivalent (FTE) of 38.5. Instrumental instruction is offered in 9 disciplines:

Woodwind	5.4 FTE
Brass	5.6 FTE
Percussion	2.9 FTE
Piano/Keyboard	4.3 FTE
Guitar	2.8 FTE
Violin/Viola	12.6 FTE
Cello/Double bass	3.3 FTE
Bagpipes*	1.0 FTE
Pipe Band Drumming*	0.6 FTE

There were 886 pupils registered on the IMS waiting list at the time of writing this report.

* Through match funding from the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust a bagpipes instructor and a pipe band drums instructor were introduced to the Banff network in 2016.

2.2 MUSIC CENTRE

Aberdeenshire Council provides a comprehensive music centre service, designed to meet the needs of pupils of all ages, from very young to advanced players. Junior groups meet on Saturday mornings in Stonehaven, Inverurie and Fraserburgh. Senior groups meet on Tuesdays and Fridays after school in Westhill and Mintlaw. Pupils may attend more than one Aberdeenshire Music Centre at no additional cost.

- £64 Annual membership charge (2015/2016)
- £63 (2014/2015)
- 453 pupils took part (2015/2016)
- 453 (2014/2015)

2.3 YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE

The Instrumental Music Service works in partnership with the Arts Development Team to provide a range of musical experiences, including the Kodaly Singing and Musicianship Programme, through Youth Music Initiative funding. Creative Scotland (formerly The Scottish Arts Council) administers the funding.

Various programmes are in place to provide instrumental and vocal tuition as well as to meet the initial Youth Music Initiative target, that by 2006 every primary school pupil would have the opportunity to access one year's free music tuition by primary 6.

Further information is available at: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/yimi>

3 CHARGING POLICY

3.1 2015 – 2016 CHARGES

The Council has a policy of charging parents/guardians a moderate annual fee, payable in 4 equal termly instalments. This fee represents a contribution towards the overall cost of tuition. Tuition is offered on an individual or group basis.

- Individual £304 [£76 per ten week period](2015/2016)
 - £300 (2014/2015)
- Group £204 (£51 per ten week period)
 - £200 (2014/2015)

An annual inflationary increase based on the retail price index excluding mortgages (RPIX) is applied to fees.

3.2 SIBLING DISCOUNTS

A 20% discount is applied to each child when 2 or more siblings are paying for tuition. To receive the discount each sibling must be registered with the same contributor (person responsible for payment).

- 476 pupils received sibling discounted tuition. (2015/2016)
- 339 (2014/2015)

3.3 EXEMPTIONS

Pupils registered for free school meals are exempt from Music Tuition fees.

- 112 pupils received free school meals exempt tuition (2015/2016)
- 135 (2014/2015)

All senior phase (S4 to S6) pupils receiving instruction on an instrument for an SQA course are exempt from charges. SQA courses include Higher Music, Advanced Higher Music, National 4 Music, National 5 Music, and free standing Music units e.g. 'Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice' coded F3F4.

- 148 S4 pupils received SQA exempt tuition (2015/2016)
- 208 (2014/2015)
- 114/186 S5 pupils received SQA exempt tuition (2015/2016)
- 186 (2014/2015)
- 91/163 S6 pupils received SQA exempt tuition (2015/2016)
- 163 (2014/2015)

95% of pupils doing SQA music courses were supported by Instrumental Music Service instructors.

4 BUDGET

4.1 REVENUE

Income from tuition fees (financial year)

- £418K (2015/16)
- £411K (2014/15)

4.2 FINANCE

The gross total running cost of the IMS is in the region of £1.6M

4.3 BUDGET

The IMS budget is approximately 0.07% of the Education budget

5 NATIONAL ADVICE

The Scottish Government published recommendations in "Instrumental Music Tuition in Scotland" (June 2013).

5.1 2. CONTINUE TO DELIVER

The Instrumental Music Service is committed to delivering the best opportunities for as many people as possible, making the best possible use of available resources.

(National recommendation 2. Local Authorities should continue to deliver an Instrumental Music service, notwithstanding the current financial challenges.)

5.2 3. REVIEW CHARGING POLICIES

There are free school meals exemptions and sibling discounts with a robust system for fair application.

(National recommendation 3. Local Authorities should review their charging policies to ensure that pupils in their area are not prevented from learning a musical instrument because of their background, location, disability or financial circumstances)

5.3 4. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

In-service days for music instructors have focused on various additional support needs, meeting the needs of children, equalities, and the instrumental tuition selection procedure, to ensure that a well-balanced inclusive service is provided.

In a survey of music instructors it was found that 10% of the children receiving instrumental tuition in session 2015/2016 were known to have additional support needs (ASN). There is evidence that that actual proportion of instrumental pupils with ASN is higher as the music instructors were not aware of all of their pupils' ASN.

(National recommendation 4. Local Authorities should deliver instrumental music tuition to all children and young people equally, including pupils with additional support needs.)

5.4 5. SQA EXEMPTION

All senior phase (S4 to S6) pupils receiving instruction on an instrument for an SQA course are exempt from charges. SQA courses include Higher Music, Advanced Higher Music, National 4 Music, National 5 Music, and free standing Music units e.g. 'Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice' coded F3F4.

(National recommendation 5. Local Authorities should not charge for tuition which supports SQA exam courses.)

5.5 6. COLLABORATION

Aberdeenshire has regular joint in-service days with Aberdeen City.

(National recommendation 6. Local Authorities should investigate the options for better collaboration with other instrumental music services and community groups)

5.6 7. INSTRUMENTS

Aberdeenshire has a policy of repairing or replacing instruments. Students are encouraged to purchase their own instrument through the assisted purchase scheme, which enables instruments to be obtained ex-VAT. The inventory is maintained on the SEEMiS educational database.

(National recommendation 7. Local Authorities should facilitate the maximum use, value and sustainability of instruments, including maintaining the inventory. (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland audit))

5.7 9. SPONSORSHIP

All primary 4 to primary 7 children in the Banff children Schools network received the opportunity to participate in the pilot pipe band project. This was made possible through match funding from the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Trust fund.

The organisation 'Friends of the North Aberdeenshire Music Centre' is a voluntary group which supports the activities of the music centre.

(National recommendation 9. Local Authorities should take a more pro-active approach to seek external sponsorship)

5.8 11. TECHNOLOGY

Instrumental instructors:

- use electronic devices in the classroom (e.g. to record performance for SQA performance units)
- use the SEEMiS database to manage tuition details
- use a new electronic pupil progress reporting system

(National recommendation 11. Local Authorities should explore the huge opportunities arising from the use of technology.)

5.9 14. BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK

Aberdeenshire Instrumental Music Service provides statistics to the Improvement Service.

<http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/instrumental-music-survey-2015.html>

(National recommendation 14. The Improvement Service is to maintain and provide a standard benchmarking framework to capture data on charging policy, current charges, participation and drop-out rates for instrumental music services.)

5.10 16 NATIONAL CONFERENCE & SCHOOL INSPECTION STATEMENT

Aberdeenshire Music Instructors are included in formal school inspections.

(National recommendation 16. The ADES (Association of Directors of Education in Scotland) National Conference took place in March 2014. An instrumental tuition statement has been added to school Inspection reports.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 SURVEY

There is an online survey to help with improvement planning for the service. A total of 411 parents have responded, including parents of children who are not receiving tuition, children who are currently receiving tuition, and children who have left school.

6.2 SURVEY SUMMARY

6.2.1 IMS Aims

92% of respondents agreed with the IMS Aims, 4% disagreed and 4% had no opinion. Comments from those who disagreed included reference to the lack of opportunity at their school and issues of fairness over the selection procedure.

6.2.2 Registration

63% of respondents were unaware that parents can register their child online for the Instrumental Music Service waiting list.

6.2.3 Policy for Group tuition

86% of respondents agreed that beginners should be taught in groups, 11% disagreed and 3% had no opinion. Comments include concerns about meeting children's individual needs and coping with differing learning pace in a group situation.

6.2.4 Allocation of lessons

72% agreed that instrumental lessons during the school day should normally be limited to one instrument per child, 23% disagreed and 5% had no opinion. Comments mostly made the case for allowing a second instrument if the child could justify it with aptitude and industry.

6.2.5 Waiting List

74% agreed that the waiting list system should help the service plan the Instructors' timetables, 5% disagreed and 21% had no opinion. Comments included disappointment that pupils on the waiting list had never been given the opportunity to learn an instrument. Respondents also pointed out that the concept of a waiting list is inconsistent with the IMS aim "To provide opportunities for all to benefit from learning music".

6.2.6 Disadvantaged children

87% agreed that the system should accommodate disadvantaged children and children with additional support needs when possible, 6% disagreed and 7% had no opinion. Comments included concerns that the system should promote equality and that tuition should be provided for children "with the most dedication and best ability to learn the instrument".

6.2.7 Aptitude testing

63% agreed that aptitude testing is an appropriate way of determining which pupils are offered tuition, 31% disagreed and 6% had no opinion. Comments included suggestions that willingness to learn, commitment etc. should be taken into account. It was pointed out that children with no previous musical experience would have a disadvantage.

6.2.8 Terms and conditions

85% agreed that the terms and conditions provides all necessary information and that the information provided is clear and concise, 4% disagreed and 11% had no opinion.

6.2.9 Instrumental Music Service lessons

	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor	No opinion	Total
organisation, content and pace)	39.90% 79	45.96% 91	5.56% 11	1.01% 2	7.58% 15	198
appropriate length	31.31% 62	55.56% 110	5.05% 10	0.00% 0	8.08% 16	198
timetabling	25.76% 51	56.06% 111	8.08% 16	0.51% 1	9.60% 19	198
information and forms	24.24% 48	47.47% 94	15.15% 30	2.02% 4	11.11% 22	198

6.2.10 The Instrumental Teachers:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion	Total
inspire confidence	44.95% 89	38.89% 77	4.55% 9	0.00% 0	11.62% 23	198
maintain good discipline	46.70% 92	38.58% 76	1.02% 2	0.51% 1	13.20% 26	197
provide clear and informative progress reports	35.03% 69	38.58% 76	14.72% 29	4.57% 9	7.11% 14	197
give parents the opportunity to meet (or telephone) them once a year	36.92% 72	31.79% 62	13.33% 26	6.67% 13	11.28% 22	195

6.2.11 The Child:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion	Total
enjoys instrumental lessons	56.06% 111	39.39% 78	3.03% 6	0.00% 0	1.52% 3	198
is encouraged and praised when appropriate	48.99% 97	40.40% 80	1.52% 3	0.00% 0	9.09% 18	198
plays suitable music	49.49% 98	40.91% 81	4.04% 8	0.00% 0	5.56% 11	198
individual needs are catered for	43.37% 85	39.29% 77	5.10% 10	2.04% 4	10.20% 20	196
is encouraged to play with others in a variety of groups	44.44% 88	34.85% 69	6.57% 13	0.00% 0	14.14% 28	198
has appropriate opportunities to take external exams	39.09% 77	22.34% 44	8.12% 16	3.05% 6	27.41% 54	197

6.2.12 National Qualifications

60% agreed that from s3 and above lessons are geared towards National Qualifications, 5% disagreed and 35% had no opinion.

6.2.13 Assisted purchase scheme

24% of respondents were aware of the musical instrument assisted purchase scheme.

6.2.14 Payment options

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion	Total
Payment options are adequate	22.87% 43	67.02% 126	4.26% 8	1.06% 2	4.79% 9	188
Online payment works reasonably well	27.37% 52	54.74% 104	5.26% 10	6.32% 12	6.32% 12	190

6.2.15 Customers' preferred payment methods

These are ranked in order of preference; 1 being the most preferred. (Some of these are not currently available)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Score
Direct debit	21.24% 41	27.98% 54	15.03% 29	12.44% 24	13.47% 26	9.84% 19	193	4.02
Online (using debit/credit card)	68.91% 133	21.24% 41	6.22% 12	2.07% 4	0.52% 1	1.04% 2	193	5.53
Over the phone (using debit/credit card)	2.59% 5	17.10% 33	35.23% 68	18.65% 36	16.58% 32	9.84% 19	193	3.41
Top up card	1.04% 2	9.84% 19	11.40% 22	16.06% 31	29.53% 57	32.12% 62	193	2.40
Cheque	5.18% 10	18.13% 35	22.28% 43	33.68% 65	12.44% 24	8.29% 16	193	3.45
Cash	1.04% 2	5.70% 11	9.84% 19	17.10% 33	27.46% 53	38.86% 75	193	2.19

6.2.16 Free School Meals exemption

62% agreed that the current Free School Meals registration tuition fee exemption is appropriate, 11% disagreed and 27% had no opinion.

7 EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Pupils were entered for a range of external examinations, including Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Trinity College, London College of Music and RockschooL.

7.1 INSTRUMENTAL GRADED EXAMS ATTAINED

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2015/16	143	105	108	53	64	32	17	14

7.2 MUSIC MEDALS ATTAINED

	Copper	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
2015/16	15	25	7	3	-
2014/15	12	13	7	2	-

8 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Instrumental Music Instructors contribute to the musical life of the school through participation in extra-curricular activities. In session 2015/2016 there were 3171 occasions involving music instructors during the lunch break or outside the school day in extra-curricular activities including:

- Brass ensemble
- Ceilidh Band
- Choir
- Concert Band
- Guitar Group
- Junior Band
- Orchestra
- Piano Accompaniment
- Percussion Group
- String Group
- Theory Group
- Chamber Group
- Aural

There were a further 270 occasions involving music instructors outside the school day in events, including concerts, shows, prize giving ceremonies, festivals, competitions and other school ensemble performances.

9 SCOTTISH CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Three Aberdeenshire Concert Bands attained awards at the Scottish Concert Band Festival

- 9.1 **GOLD AWARD: PORTLETHEN ACADEMY CONCERT BAND**
Conducted by Sarah Gove, Sunday 29th November 2015
- 9.2 **GOLD AWARD: MACKIE ACADEMY CONCERT BAND**
Conducted by Sarah Gove, Sunday 29th November 2015
- 9.3 **GOLD AWARD: SOUTH CENTRAL ABERDEENSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE YOUTH BAND**
Conducted by Bruce Wallace, Sunday 29th November 2015
- 9.4 **GOLD AWARD: PORTLETHEN ACADEMY CONCERT BAND**
Conducted by Sarah Gove, National Finals, Perth Concert Hall Sunday 19th March 2016
- 9.5 **GOLD AWARD: MACKIE ACADEMY CONCERT BAND**
Conducted by Sarah Gove, National Finals, Perth Concert Hall Sunday 19th March 2016
- 9.6 **GOLD AWARD: SOUTH CENTRAL ABERDEENSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE YOUTH BAND**
Conducted by Bruce Wallace, National Finals, Perth Concert Hall Sunday 20th March 2016

10 ABERDEENSHIRE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The Aberdeenshire Youth Orchestra celebrated the talent Daniel Silcock, a young pianist from Peterhead, with a performance of Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto on Sunday 26th June 2016 at Inverurie. The orchestra was conducted by Susan Dingle.

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ayo