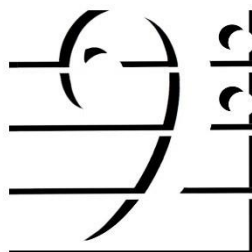




Instrumental Music Service



Report

Session 2019 – 2020

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1. COVID-19

On 18th March 2020 the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, announced that schools would be closed to pupils. This meant that the Instrumental Music Service (IMS) would need to mobilise quickly, to prepare for online delivery of instrumental tuition. Guidance from Education Senior Management was swift and comprehensive and was constantly updated. The IMS Manager was kept informed at all times and participated in all Head Teachers meetings, which has continued. A Council wide Recovery Plan was put into place and subsequently an IMS Recovery Plan was drafted and sent out to all schools. IMS staff, including Instructors were involved in the Recovery Plans and IMS Risk Assessments. The Youth Music Initiative (YMI) side of the IMS was fully included in all plans and Risk Assessments. Video Conferencing had not been authorised at this point, so lessons were planned and delivered by instructors via Glow, using Google Classroom and Teams initially. The number of platforms were to increase as time went on throughout the year and in August, tuition via Video Conferencing was authorised. This was of particular importance to Brass and Woodwind instructors, as they were not able to go into schools, despite the pupils return, because of Scottish Government guidance that states Brass, Woodwind and Singing activities in schools should be avoided. This also affected Kodály instructors who deliver the Kodály Singing and Musicianship Programme as

part of the YMI. The ways in which the IMS adapted are included in more detail in the relevant sections of this report.

2.1 Vision

We believe that our Instrumental Music Service can make a major contribution to fulfilling the key principles that underpin the strategic priorities of the Council:

“Right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; climate and sustainability; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy.”

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.

“Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland”

2.2 Values

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

2.3 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
- To tackle poverty and inequalities
- To improve and develop digital learning

3. The Instrumental Music Service

3.1 CORE SERVICE

The Instrumental Music Service (IMS) operates in all 17 Community School Networks across Aberdeenshire, providing group and individual lessons.

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Pupils who received tuition	2888	2965	3171	3060	2651
Pupils registered on the IMS waiting list	1475	1527*	1215*	1244	886

*Waiting list data captured in September 2018

In Session 2019/2020 there were 44 instrumental instructors with a full time equivalent (FTE) of 36.74. Instrumental instruction was offered in 9 disciplines:

Discipline	2019/20	2018/19	2017/2018	2016/2017	2015/2016
Woodwind	5.4 FTE	5.4 FTE	5.4 FTE	5.4 FTE	5.4 FTE
Brass	5.0 FTE	5.0 FTE	5.4 FTE	5.6 FTE	5.6 FTE
Percussion	2.8 FTE	2.8 FTE	2.8 FTE	2.9 FTE	2.9 FTE
Piano/Keyboard	4.6 FTE	4.6 FTE	4.6 FTE	4.3 FTE	4.3 FTE
Guitar	3.0 FTE	3.0 FTE	3.0 FTE	2.8 FTE	2.8 FTE
Violin/Viola	10.54	10.14 FTE	10.94 FTE	12.6 FTE	12.6 FTE
Cello/Double bass	3.8 FTE	4.2 FTE	4.2 FTE	3.3 FTE	3.3 FTE
Bagpipes*	1 FTE	1 FTE	1.0 FTE	1.0 FTE	1.0 FTE
Pipe Band Drumming*	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE

* 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.

3.2 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 which will be reviewed in academic year 2020/21.

COVID-19

Music Centre does not take place during Term 4, so was not affected by the school closure. However, the IMS Music Centre Coordinators, under the guidance of the IMS Manager, began to prepare for the possibility of Music Centre not being able to meet, in a physical sense, in Term 1 of the next Academic session. This did prove to be the case. The preparation in 2019/20 meant that Music Centre was able to continue in 2020/21, by rehearsing online via Glow and Google Classroom. The result was the production of a virtual ensemble video from every single Music Centre ensemble for the Christmas Concerts that would usually have taken place in the Music Centre venues. The videos were widely shared online and were received extremely well.

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Annual membership charge	£70	£70	£68	£65	£64	£63
Number of pupils taking part	398	481	483	503	453	453

3.3 Youth Music Initiative (YMI)

In 2019-20 the Instrumental Music Service worked in partnership with Live Life Aberdeenshire, to provide a range of musical experiences, including the Kodaly Singing and Musicianship Programme, through Youth Music Initiative funding. The Aberdeenshire YMI has been recognised by Creative Scotland as being one of the most diverse and effective programmes in Scotland. 35,000 pupils received a YMI project in 2018/19. Despite the closure of schools in March 2020, similar numbers were still achieved as the Kodaly Singing and Musicianship Programme continued both online and in the Hub Schools. Creative Scotland administers the funding.

In 2019/20, Aberdeenshire Council (IMS) and Live Life Aberdeenshire (Arts Team) delivered or partially delivered 20 music projects to school pupils from nursery through to secondary school. The Purpose 1 strand of our programme is delivered to whole classes in primary schools and is fully inclusive, enabling us to work towards the Scottish Government target of all pupils having access to one year's free music

tuition by the time they leave primary school. Project 1 (Kodaly Singing & Musicianship) specifically addresses this target, enhanced by our Project 2 Whole Class Music projects and Purpose 2 strand.

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

4. Charging Policy

4.1 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.

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Individual	£328 [£82 per ten week period] Under review as from March 2020]	£328 [£82 per ten week period]	£316 [£79 per ten week period]	£308 [£77 per ten week period]	£304 [£76 per ten week period]	£300 [£75 per ten week period]
Group	£220 [£55 per ten week period] Under review as from March 2020]	£220 [£55 per ten week period]	£212 [£53 per ten week period]	£208 [£52 per ten week period]	£204 [£51 per ten week period]	£200 [£50 per ten week period]

Fees remained the same in 2019/20 as the previous year. Tuition fees were placed under review in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.2 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).

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Sibling discounted tuition numbers	505	542	548	530	476	339

4.3 Exemptions

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

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Free school meals exempt tuition	150	140	177	159	112	135

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.

	2019/20	2018/18	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
SQA exempt tuition	412	526	478	402	353	385

5. Budget

5.1 Revenue

Income from tuition fees (financial year)

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015
Income from tuition fees	£427,371	£445K	£433K	£436K	£418K	£411K
Income from Music Centre	*£32,119					

* first time Music Centre income figure expressed as a separate figure

5.2 Finance

The gross total running cost of the IMS for 2019/20 financial year is in the region of £1.7M

5.3 Budget

The IMS budget is approximately 0.7% of the Education & Children's Service budget.

6. External Examinations

6.1 Instrumental graded examinations attained.

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Advanced
2019/20	55	32	44	26	32	16	5	8	
2018/19	84	95	83	50	44	7	10	12	
2017/18	155	126	95	67	63	25	13	23	3
2016/17	181	123	112	67	52	26	19	21	-
2015/16	143	105	108	53	64	32	17	14	-

Numbers in 2019/20 are particularly low because external examinations were not available in Term 4 due to Covid-19. The summer term is popular for external examinations.

6.2 Music Medals attained

Medal	Copper	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
2019/20	-	-	--	-	-
2018/19	-	-	4	-	-
2017/18	-	3	5	-	-
2016/17	18	15	4	7	2
2015/16	15	25	7	3	-

Music Medals have decreased in popularity in recent years. These examinations were not available in the summer term due to Covid-19

7. Extra-curricular activities

Instrumental Music Instructors contribute to the musical life of the school through participation in extra-curricular activities.

Extra-curricular activities included:	Events included:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aural • Brass ensemble • Ceilidh Band • Chamber Group • Choir • Concert Band • Guitar Group • Junior Band • Orchestra • Percussion Group • Piano Accompaniment • Pipe Band • Rock Band • String Group • Theory Group • Woodwind Ensemble • Flute Choir • SQA practical exam extra rehearsals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerts • Shows • Prize giving ceremonies • Festivals • Competitions • School ensemble performances • Primary end of term service • Easter service • Edinburgh Tattoo • Activities week • Burns' suppers • Ceilidhs • Pipe band engagements • Solo recitals with pupils • Fiddle Showcase • Weekend concerts • Creative Arts evening

Covid-19 Pandemic

Due to the pandemic, the IMS needed to prepare other ways to provide extra-curricular ensemble activities in Term 4. Instructors attended numerous training courses and online events in order to learn new skills in music technology. This preparation would prove to be invaluable in the following academic year, when a significant amount of online ensemble work and one to one teaching would take place, for which Aberdeenshire IMS received several awards in the Scottish Concert Band Festival.

8. Scottish Concert Band Festival

The IMS had several bands entered for the 2020 festival, which was scheduled for March 2020. It was cancelled due to the pandemic. Music Centre Coordinators, Conductors, IMS instructors and Music Centre staff began work immediately to prepare for a digital festival which was scheduled for December 2020. Four bands from Aberdeenshire IMS participated and received numerous awards which will be included in the next annual report.

<https://www.scottishconcertbandfestival.com/>

Because the event had already been held at the time of writing this report, there is a link included here of The South Central Aberdeenshire (IMS Music Centre) Youth Concert Band entry. The festival and the IMS achievements will be reported on fully in next year's Annual Report.

Here is the link:

https://youtu.be/cq_EbcPFm4o

9. Aberdeenshire Schools Pipe Band (ASPB)

The ASPB competed at the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships in Kilmarnock.

Two quartets from Meldrum Academy also travelled to the competition and were fortunate to pick up 1st and 3rd in the quartet competition. Prize money was used to buy an electronic chanter for Meldrum which has been useful during the past year with the restrictions that have been in place.

Several members have been actively involved in solo competitions held online. Over 10 children involved in the school's tuition programme and the Aberdeenshire Schools Pipe Band picked up placings in the Turriff & District Pipe Band Competition which attracted over 500 entries across all events from around the world.

Pipers and drummers were involved in putting together a Christmas performance for the Press & Journal's digital advent calendar.

Members of the pipe band were actively involved in submitting recordings for the various academy Christmas concerts.

10. Aberdeenshire Youth Orchestra (AYO)

AYO was cancelled in June 2020 due to the pandemic. The IMS Manager had initialised a review of the course, which was previously residential, because of the cost to the service. 2020 was to be a non-residential course as a first step. A further review of the course will recommence in 2021, in order to establish the future and sustainability of the course.

11. Covid-19 Term 4 2020 – Closure of schools

- During this term all instrumental instructors delivered music sessions via Glow using either Google Classroom or MS Teams. At this point tuition via Video Conferencing had not been authorised.
- Types of delivery were varied and included:
 - Setting weekly assignments for pupils to submit
 - Pre-recorded video of instructor demonstrating work with advice and guidance
 - Pre-recorded audio of instructor demonstrating work with advice and guidance
 - Pupils were able to submit pre-recorded video and/or audio for appraisal
 - Glow mail used to communicate with pupils
 - Ensemble work continued to take place with some instructors using a variety of software such as Sound Slice and Smart Music.

- Virtual Band Projects across several schools
- Theory work as well as practical assessments is being set
- SQA F3F4 stand-alone performance units assessed by instructors with results being submitted to Deputes, Faculty Heads and Principal Teachers of Music.
- Electronic chanters were purchased so that face to face lessons could continue during restrictions for wind instruments

The IMS followed guidance and advice of the EIS Guidance for Instrumental Music Teachers Working from Home, as well as our own Council guidance through Education Development and in turn Education Scotland. No live video conferencing took place in this academic year. Education Scotland authorised this in time to commence at the start of the new term in August.

- A number of Youth Music Initiative (YMI) projects delivered by the IMS continued:
 - Kodaly Instructors submitting work to the schools that they were scheduled to work in during Term 3 and 4. Work sent to Head Teachers to cascade to Teaching Staff to utilise on Glow
 - Work being shared using Glow, Google Classroom and MS Teams
 - The School hubs all received regular work, resources and ideas from the Kodaly music Team
 - One Kodaly Instructor will be going into some of the school hubs to deliver directly to pupils attending school
 - Private YouTube channels accessible to all primary schools
 - iPad Music project instructor visited school hubs to deliver the iPad Music Project directly
 - 2 online YMI projects covering 40 schools. Charanga and ABC Online. These projects are available to all class teachers in the participating schools. Charanga was made available to the school hubs as well

Music Education Partnership Group

The IMS as a whole took part in the “Over the Rainbow Project” which paid tribute to NHS Scotland. This Nationwide project was set up by the Music Education Partnership Group (MEPG) which is an independent group originally funded by HITS and the Scottish Government. Instructors also took part in the project called “Doorstep Samba”. Pupils and staff submit videos of themselves playing. Twitter is the main platform for sharing as well as coverage from the BBC and STV.

Justin Brook
Instrumental Music Service Manager