**Tuition Discount Policy**

Students living in or attending school in Essex may be able to get financial support for instrument and vocal lessons with Essex Music Service teachers, and with the costs of hiring an instrument.

Financial support for music lessons from Essex Music Service is funded by the Arts Council England, therefore is separate from other funding you may be eligible for from Essex County Council, such as free school meals or childcare vouchers.

**Details of our provision**

Financial support is only provided to those students for whom an application to Essex Music Service for support is made.

Financial support is granted for one academic year only, and once successfully applied for at any stage in the year – all invoices for the rest of the academic year will have the discount applied.

You must have applied for a tuition discount before applying for any of our instrumental or vocal activity, or before requesting the hire of an instrument.

Tuition discount cannot be retrospectively applied for previous terms’ lessons within an academic year.

It is necessary to re-apply for financial support at the end of the summer term in readiness for the new academic year.

Continuing eligibility is subject to satisfactory attendance and continued musical progress.

Financial support is subject to funding availability so please note that confirmation that a pupil is eligible for help with music fees through this scheme does not guarantee that your child will receive financial support.

Essex Music Service operates a waiting list once all available funding is fully allocated.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Financial support is awarded annually, covering each academic year (September to August) via an online application process, including the submission of appropriate documentation (subject to approval from Essex Music Service), for parents/guardians in receipt of any of the following benefits (HMRC must have assessed your annual household income at £22,000 or less), or if not claiming benefits can provide alternative evidence of household income not exceeding £22,000 per annum:

* Income Support
* Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
* Working/Child Tax Credit – providing that you receive more than the basic £545.34 per annum (excluding any childcare element)
* Universal Credit

Applicants who receive other eligible benefits, e.g. State or Widow’s Pension or disability benefit, should also receive Child Tax Credit if they are responsible for caring for a child or children.

Successful applicants will receive financial support in the following ways:

* 66% reduction on in-school tuition fees
* 66% reduction on fees at Community Music Centres (1 x package only)
* 50% reduction on instrument hire scheme termly rental fees
* 66% reduction on fees for County Music Groups workshops, courses and tours
* 50% reduction for Band-It! small group Rock and Pop tuition fees and Small group Learn It Together Beginner lessons
* 50% reduction for the cost of hiring an instrument.

Costs are as follows for September 2022 – August 2023.

| **Activity (all prices for 10 weeks per term)** | Cost per term | Cost with Tuition discount per term |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Learn It Together – beginners learn in small groups of 4-6 for 30 minutes including first term of instrument hire | £40 | £20 |
| 15-minute Individual Lesson | £80 | £27.20 |
| 20-minute Individual Lesson | £106.75 | £36.30 |
| 30-minute Individual Lesson | £160 | £54.40 |
| Paired Lesson (2 students for 20 minutes or 3 students for 30 minutes) | £53.50 | £18.19 |

**Look After/Post-Looked After Children**

Thanks to generous financial support provided from Essex Virtual School, we are also able to offer all Looked After and Post Looked After Children in Essex support to access our instrumental and vocal provision and to hire an instrument.

Financial support is awarded for LAC discount once, covering each academic year (September to August) via an online application process, including the submission of our short application form (and subject to approval from Essex Music Service), for students in the following situations:

* Looked After Children (LAC).
* Children subject to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).
* Children subject to a Child Arrangement Order (CAO).
* Children adopted from care.

**Carers, social workers or teachers may apply on a young person’s behalf.** Simply download the [short application form](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.essexmusichub.org.uk%2Ffiles%2F2019%2F03%2FLAC-2018.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7C1c23488c2afc43eafdb608da698a8904%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637938340968515737%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7THXs0%2BOIW11DNDtxfhVXNsR0dN9JAmFo3xRLlU3Sfk%3D&reserved=0) and [upload it on the application page](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fukessex.speedadmin.dk%2Ftilmelding%23%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C1c23488c2afc43eafdb608da698a8904%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637938340968515737%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HoFZvo0xJyzTsRc1eTrUIr6qu4dyJsGuzNI4Y6jZNe8%3D&reserved=0).

Successful applicants can then access the following provision:

* free individual or small group (10 weeks x 15mins per week per child per term) tuition in Essex schools with a Music Service tutor; or
* free individual or small group lessons (10 weeks x 15mins per week per child per term) tuition in one of our Essex Music Schools; or
* free Essex Music Service Community Music Centre lesson package, run out of school hours during evenings or Saturday mornings,
* free instrument hire (deposits are not discounted, but the delivery of the instrument to school would be free of charge)
* free membership of County Music Groups including attendance at workshops, courses and tours

Please note: For extra lesson time beyond 15 mins, and lessons on an additional instrument will be charged at the 66% discounted rate.

The costs are as follows:

| **Activity** | Cost | Cost for LAC or PLAC\* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Learn It Together – beginners learn in small groups of 4-6 for 30 minutes including first term of instrument hire | £40 | Free |
| 15-minute Individual Lesson | £80 | Free |
| 20-minute Individual Lesson | £106.75 | £9.09 |
| 30-minute Individual Lesson | £160 | £27.20 |
| Paired Lesson (2 students for 20 minutes or 3 students for 30 minutes) | £53.50 | Free |

\*LAC/PLAC students can only access one of these services for free.