



Help with music education costs: 2025/26 Bursary Grant

If you're finding it hard to afford the costs of music tuition for your daughter/son/child in your care, you may be eligible for our bursary fund.

Who is the grant for?

Young people who can demonstrate financial hardship.

What can it be used for?

Any individual/small group music tuition for up to a year, together with the loan of an instrument if required and financial help towards music examination fees if relevant.

How much is it for?

You can apply for up to £200 per student per term based on a 3 term school year but you must provide evidence to support the costs.

The bursary will only be paid for tuition etc. for the period up to the end of the academic year (July 2026) but will be open for application again next year.

Who can apply?

Students aged 5-18 who are resident in Gloucestershire and attend a Gloucestershire LEA school.

Families in need of financial support. Awards are means tested and applicants should be able to provide relevant evidence of income. The gross income of the student's family should be less than £27,000 pa

Families where more than one child is already receiving music tuition would also be considered where gross income is less than £32,000pa

When can I apply?

You can apply at any time; however, we cannot provide funding for tuition that has already taken place.

Applications will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis. If there is insufficient grant to meet eligible applicants, applications may be held over to the following year.

How do I apply and what information will you need?

Complete the application form on page 3.

We'll need information from you and your school - this is laid out in the form.

When will I find out if my application has been successful?

A decision is made very quickly once we've received your form, typically within one week. If there are any queries we'll follow up, and once clarified, depending on the schools status (academy or LEA) the funding will be with the school within 2 weeks.

OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I apply for more than one student?

Yes you may apply for as many children in the family that meet the criteria.

Who is providing the funding?

Gloucestershire, Swindon, Wiltshire Music Hub (GSW) – the county's music education hub. We're a network of schools, individuals and organisations working together to make sure music education reaches as many children and young people as possible, and makes a difference to their lives and futures.

GSW is led by the County Council which receives a grant from the Department for Education (DfE) administered through Arts Council England (ACE) to fund the work of the Hub around four core and three extension roles. It commissions activity in line with these and with the priorities set out in the National Plan for Music Education. A group of key partners is responsible for strategy, delivery, communications, and outcomes: these are currently Gloucestershire Music, The Music Works, Gloucestershire Academy of Music, Cheltenham Festivals, Swindon & Wiltshire Music Services. An advisory group including schools, parents and young people representatives, advises on overall strategy and direction. Find out more about the GSW Music Hub here:

<https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/gsw-music-hub>

For more localised information please visit the GSW Music Hub Gloucestershire site here:

<https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/gsw-music-hub-glos>

Why do you need such detailed financial information?

GSW is accountable to the Arts Council England for the financial management of the funding delegated to it. As such we must demonstrate that we have taken every care to ensure that the money is well spent and reaches those that need it most.

What happens if circumstances change during the year?

If your circumstances change once you have been awarded a bursary, it is important that you let us know.

Who will receive the funding?

Your child's school - to ensure that the bursary is properly managed and any that any payments from this bursary are open to audit scrutiny by Gloucestershire County Council. The school will manage the payment to tutors and any examination fees.

What happens if the student stops attending?

If a student stops attending lessons with the tutor for whom a bursary has been awarded, the school will be asked to repay the grant from the time that the student ceased tuition. Parent/carer's will need to email glosmusic@goucestershire.gov.uk to notify us that the student is stopping their music lessons.

Who will decide if the bursary application has been successful?

GSW (the hub) will ultimately make the decision based on the information provided by the school.

How will you ensure that my application is confidential?

All applications remain absolutely confidential and are only shared between the school and GSW. If the application is successful the school will be notified of the amount that has been granted and the name of the student to receive this grant.

How much is available for these bursaries in this academic year?

£35,000 in total has been set aside for this academic year (ending 31st August 2026).

2025/26 Bursary Programme

Please return this form to: Allan Waters,
 Gloucestershire Music, Colwell Arts Centre, Derby Road,
 Gloucester GL1 4AD
 glosmusic@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Name of applicant: _____

Age: _____ School year: _____

Address:

School / College: _____

Is the student in receipt of pupil premium? Yes No

Is the student a Local After Child? Yes No

Name of School making the application: _____

Contact name at School: _____

Contact tel: _____

Contact email: _____

Period of bursary: From _____ to 31st July 2026
(Retrospective applications will not be accepted)

	£
Cost of tuition (show full cost of tuition being applied for)	
Loan instrument (please contact GM for the cost)	
Examination fees	
Other exceptional costs	
TOTAL	

It is the responsibility of the organisation making the application to verify the financial status of the parent/guardian.

Does the student's family income meet the criteria for eligibility? Yes No

I certify that the information in this application is correct and represents the true cost of support required. I can confirm that I have verified eligibility for support.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name of School: _____

Signature of parent/guardian to consent to the application being made:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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