

WIGAN MUSIC SERVICE

Providing the pathway for every child's musical journey

Assisted Tuition Scheme (ATS) - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Assisted Tuition Scheme?

This scheme was introduced in September 2012 as a means of contributing to the cost of learning to play for those families who may not have the means to fully support a child's musical learning. The funding for this scheme has been made available thanks to generous support from anonymous donors and is administered by Wigan Council Music Service. The scheme helps us in our response to the government's National Plan for Music Education which clearly advocates the availability of affordable progression pathways for all pupils.

This scheme supports instrumental music provision provided by Wigan Music Service only. You cannot use it to apply for support for private tuition or activities run by other providers, even if this provision takes place in your child's school.

How do I apply?

You need to complete an online form. Please email musicserenq@wigan.gov.uk for an application pack.

When is the deadline for my application?

The ATS Panel meets once each term.

Autumn Term (for support in SPRING Term)

Deadline Date: Friday 14th November 2025
Panel Meeting: Tuesday 25th November 2025
Outcome: w/c 8th December 2025

Spring Term (for support in SUMMER Term)

Deadline Date: Friday 6th March 2026
Panel Meeting: Tuesday 17th March 2026
Outcome: w/c 30th March 2026

Re-applications Summer Term (for support in AUTUMN Term)

Deadline Date: Friday 5th June 2026
Panel Meeting: Tuesday 16th June 2026
Outcome: w/c 28th June 2026

How much financial support is available?

The amount of support available will vary depending on the funds available in the scheme, the help that is requested, and the circumstances described in the application.

The scheme acknowledges that the cost of supporting a child's music education can increase as they progress and may require additional tuition / become members of ensembles.

Which activities / services can I get support with?

- Weekly instrumental lessons
- Music Centre subscriptions and associated events
- Instrument hire

This Scheme can only support one course of study per child. (A child learning piano and violin cannot apply for support on both of these instruments).

Graded Examination Fees

Assistance with graded music examination fees is available for pupils receiving free school meals. This is dealt with outside of the Assisted Tuition Scheme. Please contact the Head of Music Service on 01942 776169 for information.



Who will decide whether I am eligible to access the scheme?

The ATS panel will decide. The panel will be made up of music service managers.

How will the panel decide whether I am eligible?

It is important that the limited funding goes to those pupils and families who will make the very most of the opportunities it makes possible. The panel will refer to the details you provide in your application and the verification reference we will request from your child's Headteacher.

When an award is made, we will contact your child's tutor for regular progress reports and evidence of commitment to learning and your child's engagement with ensembles and other music service activities. This will be monitored through your child's Practice Diary.

Will I be able to receive 'back pay' for any tuition or services I have received prior to this application?

NO. The scheme will only provide assistance for future provision and services.

I am successful in my application, how will I receive my financial support?

Parents will not receive any money. If you are successful in applying for help with tuition costs for instrumental lessons received in school, we will communicate with your child's school and will advise them of the subsidy that will be applied.

Your payment amounts will then be reduced accordingly by the school.

If you are applying for support towards music lessons delivered at our evening music centres (MLD) the subsidy will be applied to the termly bill you receive directly from Wigan Music Service.

If you are applying for support for ensemble fees, or for instrument hire costs, you will not receive bills from the music service for these directly provided services for the duration of the support agreed as part of a successful application.

How will I know if I have been successful?

We will write to you with the outcome of your application after the meeting of the ATS decision panel.

How long will the support last?

Normally, regardless of when support begins, it will be agreed until the end of the current academic year.

You will be invited to reapply for the new academic year if your circumstances remain the same. If you do not reapply, charges will default back to normal.

We will write to you in the Summer term to remind you about this.

The amount of available funding for this scheme and your personal circumstances may change in future years. Therefore, there is no guarantee that future applications for the same support will be successful.

Who can I call if I have questions?

Your initial questions should be directed towards Sarah Wallace or Hilary Wilson (Music Service Admin) on 01942 776169. Should you have a music specific or sensitive query, you can ask to speak to a member of the service management team on the same number.

Will my application will be dealt with confidentially?

Yes. The information you provide will be viewed only by the ATS panel and your child's Headteacher.

Applications will be retained by the Music Service and dealt with according to the Wigan Council data protection policy. You can view our privacy notice at www.wigan.gov.uk/musicserviceprivacy

If you would like any more information about the Assisted Tuition Scheme or any other service that we provide, please contact:

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Park Road, Hindley, Wigan WN2 3RY

01942 776169

musicserenq@wigan.gov.uk

