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## Your Guide to School Music Budgeting

Financing your primary school's music programme is vital but not necessarily easy. That's why Sing Education developed our music budgeting guide to help.

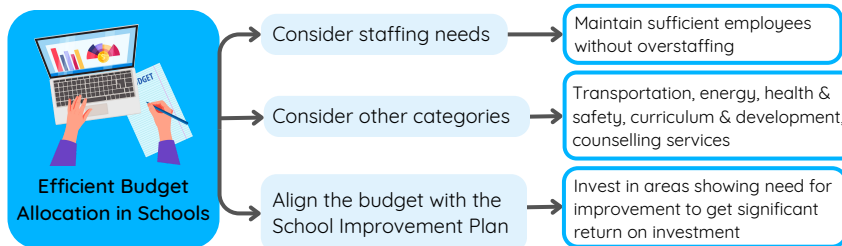
From big picture costs to budget allocation strategies to fundraising tips to case studies showcasing different investment levels and outcomes, we've bundled the best ideas for music funding into one comprehensive handbook. Designed for school finance officers, governors and PTA members alike, our guide is a fantastic resource to reference and share this budgeting season.

## What is the current news around school budgets?

In England, school spending per pupil saw a significant 8.5% decrease in real terms during 2019–20, particularly affecting day-to-day expenses, and exerting greater pressure on school capital spending.

This reduction marks the most substantial and prolonged decline in school spending per pupil seen in England for at least four decades, if not longer.

However, amidst these challenges, there is a positive shift ahead. The school budget is projected to rise substantially from £44.4 billion in 2019–20 to £59.6 billion in 2024–25 in cash terms, signifying an approximate 15% real-terms increase over a five-year span. This increase brings an opportunity for schools to leverage their budgets more effectively.



**When building your budget you may want to consider:**

### Collaborative Approach

Encourage departmental collaboration to prioritize students. Facilitate team discussions for informed choices.

### Data-Driven Decisions

Embrace modern tools to analyze your current budgets. Integrate relevant data to help you make better decisions.

### Courageous Inquiry

Conduct a thorough evaluation of all your spending, having difficult conversations to assess what's effective and identify areas for improvement.

### Strategic Prioritization

Align your budget allocation with a comprehensive educational strategy that produces sustainable outcomes, not just short-term fixes.

### Methodical Process

Establish an organized, strategic budgeting process. Develop an initial budget outline, refine it in collaboration with others, and continually reassess and adjust to ensure a forward-looking approach spanning three to five years.

## Why is it important to budget for music?

As music educators, we witness first hand and every day, how valuable a good music education is for every student. We firmly believe that every child deserves access to a quality music education. Here are just five reasons why:

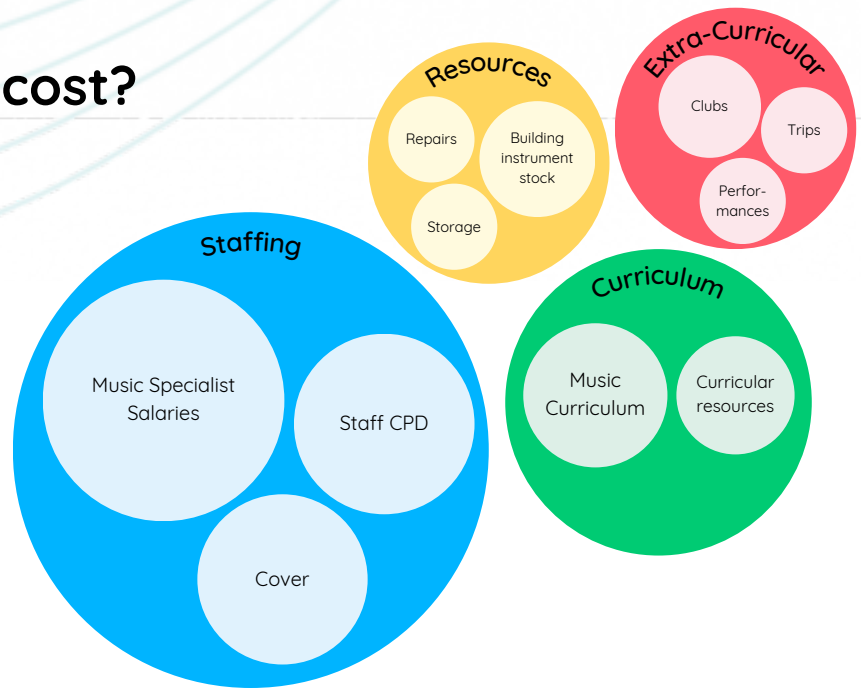
- 1 Inclusive Impact:** Music education benefits all students, fostering holistic development for every learner, embracing diversity and individual growth.
- 2 Community Connection:** Music education extends beyond school boundaries, positively impacting youth, adults, and community groups, attracting external support.
- 3 Diverse Musical Engagement:** Music education covers more than just instrumental skills, integrating composing, listening, singing, and more for vibrant and engaging content and opening many doors to students in the future.
- 4 Dual Benefits of Music:** Balancing intrinsic values with broader educational goals, music uniquely enhances group work, cooperative learning, and literacy and numeracy skills.
- 5 Emotional Well-being:** Music aids emotional expression, regulation, and understanding. It reduces stress, anxiety, and depression, supporting mental health and fostering resilience in students.

# How much does music cost?

## What are the costs?

Some of the most significant expenses involved in running a music program include:

- 👉 Teacher salaries
- 👉 Curriculum and curriculum development
- 👉 Professional development
- 👉 Purchasing new instruments
- 👉 Maintaining and repairing instruments
- 👉 Setting up a classroom
- 👉 Instrumental lessons
- 👉 Transportation to performances



## Setting Realistic Budgets

Use these case studies to guide your planning and set realistic goals for creating a budget for music. Remember to include allowance for a full inclusive music programme - from teachers to curriculum to resources to instruments.

Case Study	Churchfields Junior School	Feversham Primary Academy
Location	Redbridge	Bradford
No. of Students	approximately 480 pupils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium,</li> <li>• 9% with SEND</li> <li>• 32 languages spoken at the school.</li> </ul>	approximately 500 pupils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium,</li> <li>• 26% with SEND</li> <li>• 78% with English as an additional language</li> </ul>
Money spent on music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school collaborates with the local Music Hub for instrument loans and maintenance, supplemented by a portion (<b>£1,500 annually</b>) from the school budget.</li> <li>• Parent-funded peripatetic lessons and instrumental tuition complement in-school music programs.</li> <li>• Approximately <b>£38,000 of Pupil Premium funding</b> for specialist music teaching, individual lessons, enrichment, and instrument hire, narrowing the attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership with Bradford Music Hub for expertise sharing, CPD, and workshops.</li> <li>• <b>Annual allocation of £20,000</b> from the wider school improvement budget to prioritize music.</li> <li>• Organizational changes around the senior leadership team allow for additional funding</li> <li>• Timetable restructuring to allow enrichment activities and employ part-time specialists.</li> <li>• Financial <b>investments in instrumental tutors</b> and music CPD for staff, including support staff accreditation</li> </ul>
Music Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hour per week music lesson delivered by a music specialist</li> <li>• Whole-class instrumental lessons for years 3-6</li> <li>• Diverse music exposure, fostering critical listening through live and recorded music.</li> <li>• Music encourages student composition, performance, and cross-curricular connections.</li> <li>• Extracurricular activities such as choirs, orchestras, and collaborations with secondary schools and the English National Opera</li> <li>• Inclusive teaching for SEND students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum based on Kodály and Dalcroze principles, spanning ages 2-11.</li> <li>• 1 hour weekly classroom music, daily singing sessions, weekly music assemblies, and half-termly events.</li> <li>• Additional daily music sessions for EYFS</li> <li>• Inclusive instrumental tuition in KS2, adapting teaching for SEND pupils.</li> <li>• Annual small-group instrument lessons (e.g., guitars, woodwind, drums, rock band).</li> <li>• Extracurricular music clubs</li> </ul>

For more details on these case studies and more visit:

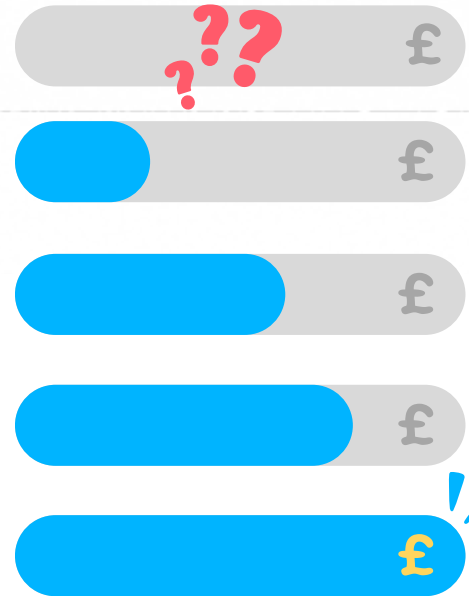
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# How can I fund music provision?

## Fundraising

While it may seem obvious, fundraising is a fantastic way to grow your budget. Here are our favourite fundraising ideas:

- £** A school concert, benefit concert or play-a-thon can raise money and promote the positive impacts and opportunities of music education.
- ££** Use support from the PTA, local businesses and any other contacts you have to host a raffle or silent auction featuring musical prizes like concert tickets.
- £££** Don't underestimate a classic bake sale!



## Spreading Costs

### Case Study

At Churchfield Junior School the school has also built up its own stocks over time, using £1,500 of the school budget each year

Remember that you don't have to buy everything all at once. Partner with your local music hub to help support you as you build the resources that you need

## Donations and grants

If resources are limited, we suggest seeking funding that aligns with your needs. Strengthen your application by outlining a clear 3-5 year vision, conducting an audit of existing equipment deficits, detailing how the funding will be utilized, and highlighting the impact this will have on students.

EMI Music Sound Foundation

Music Industry Association /Music for All

Restore the Music

Explore inventive connections beyond traditional boundaries. Consider linking music with higher-priority curriculum areas and seeking funding beyond performing arts domains. For instance, one project successfully linked music, art, and heritage for a First World War project, securing a Heritage Lottery Fund award. Think about forging connections between music and literacy, partnering with local libraries and proposing joint bids to your Local Authority or Arts Council England. Envision collaborative partnerships involving your music department, school, and local entities to align with their criteria.

Arts Council England

Heritage Lottery Fund

Musicians' Union

NESTA

PRS for Music Foundation

## Getting creative with budgeting

Ask yourself: are you getting the most from your additional services? Could you use that budget for something more equal access or multipurpose like music?

- Do you have provision such as a Breakfast club? Why not make it a before school choir!
- Do you spend a lot on PPA cover? Why not use music specialist teachers to cover this time!
- Do you buy in specialist services for SEND? Could some of that money go towards an equal access subject like music that will engage all pupils, especially those with additional learning needs!

### Case Study

Feversham Primary Academy has created a distributed leadership structure that places greater emphasis on developing middle leaders and specialists, allowing for a reduced senior leadership team and freeing up more of the budget for the arts.



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