

YOUNG MUSICIANS FUND – FAQ

Who qualifies for this award?

The fund is open to all children and young people in Lancashire (except Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen) between the age of 5 – 18 (up to 25 SEND).

We do not have income thresholds.

We welcome applications from both those families who receive government financial help and those that do not.

We are particularly interested in reaching those families that find themselves "stuck" in the middle between too high an income for government help and too low an income to afford "extras".

My child qualifies for the Pupil Premium grant – can I still apply?

Yes, you can, but we will ask the school to detail why the grant cannot be used for this purpose at this time. (It may be that money has been spent in other ways that support your child).

You need the school/teacher to complete a form, why is this?

This requirement helps us to build a picture of your child and how this award will help to further their musical education and cultural experiences. If lessons are to take place in school time, we also need school to be supportive of this.

My child is home educated, can I still apply?

Yes! If the application is for lessons, then we would look to provide these at one of our network of music centres.

For any queries regarding this, please contact rachel.hughes@lancashire.gov.uk

Why do you require interim reports from the teacher?

We have a duty to ensure that our funds are being spent wisely and the easiest way to do this is to ask the teacher/ensemble leader questions regarding your child's commitment and enthusiasm. Don't worry, we aren't expecting your child to be racing through graded exams, but we do expect that they are practising regularly at home, attending lessons and/or ensembles and progressing inline with their own abilities.

How long does it take to be notified of a decision?

You can apply at any time; however, applications will be viewed in the 2nd half of each term at our Board meetings. Closing dates for applications will be advertised on our website alongside dates for notification of decision to award for each term.

How long does an award last for?

Lessons will be funded for a calendar year (3 terms of lessons). At the start of the last term, your teacher will be asked for a final report and, provided the trustees are satisfied the money is being spent in line with our terms and conditions, you will be invited to reapply for the following year.