

Lead Schools

London Southwest Music Hub

Autumn 2025/26

Rationale

Music Hubs are required by the Department for Education (DfE) via Arts Council England (ACE) to appoint 'Lead Schools' for music in each Local Authority (LA) area.

Lead Schools will be partners of the Music Hub and support sharing of practice and development of co-curricular music provision across all schools in the area through a spirit of sharing of practice and a willingness to engage with and support the wider Hub network.

Process

Schools will be invited to complete a short expression of interest form, outlining why they wish to become a Lead School.

From this list, schools will be carefully selected to ensure a wide range of musical strengths, expertise and pedagogical contexts whilst ensuring representation from across the wider Hub area. Where possible, at least one primary and one secondary school will be appointed in each LA area. SWLM Executive Team will further seek to appoint a representative number of special schools as Lead Schools, ideally one from each LA area.

What is a Lead School?

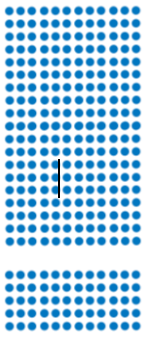
Hubs and schools have the flexibility to shape how the role of Lead Schools works in their setting. In London Southwest, Lead Schools will be those that show a willingness to support and contribute to the development of music provision across their local area. This could involve sharing ideas and resources, working with partners on professional development opportunities, or encouraging collaboration and peer support between schools.

Lead Schools will be partners of the Music Hub and will sign a partnership agreement to this effect. There will be no formal minimum requirement of activity that a Lead Schools must provide, nor is there any financial remuneration available for this role, however Lead Schools may benefit from enhanced support from their local music service and/or preferential booking for Hub/service projects and events.

Characteristics of a Lead School

Successful applicants will demonstrate:

- A high-quality and diverse musical offer
- A commitment to curriculum delivery with significant timetable time (e.g. 1hr per week minimum), a range of co-curricular opportunities, ensembles, and performance opportunities (in and out of school)
- Active engagement with their local music service and support progression routes beyond the school curriculum (e.g. music service ensembles)
- Engagement with appropriate professional development opportunities



SWL Music

SWL Music (SWLM) is the Hub Lead Organisation (HLO) for the London Southwest area. SWLM does not deliver any activity, it solely administers and distributes Music Hub grant funding to the seven Lead Delivery music services in SW London: Croydon Music & Arts, Hounslow Music Service, Kingston Music Service, Merton Music Foundation, Richmond Music Trust, Sutton Music Trust and Wandsworth Music. SWLM is managed by an Executive Leadership team, comprising the Heads and Chief Executives of each local music service.

Questions:

Merton school staff should contact: ceo@mmf.org.uk

Expressions of Interest

The deadline to express interest in becoming a Lead School is Friday 14 November 2025.

[Click here to complete the Expression of Interest form.](#)

