

Instrumental Music Services

Results from the IMS
Survey 2019



Contents

Introduction	5
Charging Policies	8
Concessions	14
Number of IMS Pupils	20
Selection Procedures	26
Other Variations in IMS Policies	28
Revenue and Budget Allocations	30
Instrumental Music Instructors	33
Reviewing Practices	35
Summary	38



Introduction

This report details results from the 2019 National Instrumental Music Survey in Scotland. The survey has now run for seven consecutive years since 2013 and shares information about instrumental music services (IMS) across Scotland including: tuition fees, concessionary rates, instrument hire and loan policies, pupil numbers, cost of services, instructor numbers and additional activities. This year's report also includes research which highlights the benefits of instrumental music. Each year the survey is carried out by the Improvement Service on behalf of Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland (HITS) as a means of sharing a national picture of instrumental music services and best practice within these services.

Instrumental music is a discretionary service provided by all local authorities in Scotland and is separate to the music curriculum taught within the classroom. This survey concentrates solely on these discretionary services, outwith Youth Music Initiative (YMI) funded tuition, and the music curriculum.

The current 2019 survey was issued to HITS colleagues in May 2019 and presents results relating to the 2018/19 academic year, unless otherwise stated. Comparisons with previous years' surveys are made where applicable. All 32 local authorities responded to the survey. Not all local authorities were able to provide responses for all sections of the survey, so care should be taken when comparing results with previous years. In addition, some figures are estimates and subject to change. Further details of all data presented in the report is available in the appended summary tables.

The Benefits of Instrumental Music

Various research highlights the benefits of participation in instrumental music for both children and adults. Many researchers focus on music acting as a bridge between cultures, and children and young people using music to express their culture and share this with classmates: "Music is a fundamental human need that bridges cultural diversity."¹ A similar benefit was highlighted within the survey by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar where traditional music and Gaelic song is central to the islands' culture and heritage, and is therefore reflected in the music tuition made available.

It has also been proven that music is linked to neurological benefits, which can help with subjects such as mathematics, language, and cognitive tasks. As noted by Scripp, "A strong body of evidence establishes positive significant associations between music and spatial-temporal reasoning; achievement in math; achievement in reading; and the reinforcement of social-emotional or behavioural objectives."² This idea is also reinforced by work by Rauscher and Hinton as they state that "because music cognition shares similarities with spatial-temporal cognition, we reasoned that students who study music at a young age could show improved spatial-temporal reasoning... Similarities between music, mathematics, and spatial reasoning have been noted for decades."³

As stated above, music is linked to achievements in mathematics: "Follow-up studies show

1 Peery, J., Peery, I. & Draper, T. (2012) quoting Mead in *'Music and Child Development'*

2 Scripp, L. (2002) *'An Overview of Research on Music and Learning'* pp. 132

3 ibid

that authentic and comprehensive musical training—learning to make music and read music in particular—appears to increase further the association between music and various aspects of mathematical reasoning.”⁴

Research also highlights that music is linked to achievements in reading and writing. However, it shows that music is linked to improving positive attitudes of children towards reading and writing and not an increased performance in reading.⁵

There are also wider benefits of music in children’s lives as Petress highlights in his work ‘The Importance of Music Education’.⁶ He states that music teaches children self-discipline, to take instruction and criticism, to perform and gain self-confidence, dedication, teamwork, to gain knowledge e.g. musical theory, humility, hard-work, goal setting and to practice. These types of skills can be enhanced and transferred into other aspects of children’s lives and follow them into adulthood.

Clearly then, provision of instrumental music services has an important role to play in supporting children’s development and academic achievement.

4 Scripp, L (2002) ‘An Overview of Research on Music and Learning’ pp. 133

5 ibid

6 Petress, K ‘The Importance of Music Education’ pp.112-113.



Charging Policies

Although the current results focus on the previous 2018/19 academic year, local authorities were also asked to provide any proposed changes due to take place in the current 2019/20 academic year. Instrumental music tuition fees vary widely across Scotland, but overall figures provided for the 2019/20 academic year demonstrate a slight increase in fees compared to previous years. In total, 9 local authorities, or 28%, increased group fees for the 2019/20 academic year, a comparatively lower percentage than in any previous iteration of this survey. No local authorities introduced fees where previously tuition had been free of charge. Fees range from a minimum of £120 up to £524, as displayed in Table 1. 2018/19 fees were discussed in last year's report where a particularly large rise in charges was reported. The relatively small increase in fees in 2019/20 should be considered in context of the much larger increase last year with fees at the highest levels, in cash terms at least, on record.

Amongst local authorities where fees were charged, these averaged £237 for group lessons, an increase of £6.38 or 2.6% since the previous year. This is reflective of decisions made by several local authorities to maintain fees at the same level as in 2018/19. Although no councils introduced fees in 2019/20, there were changes to the charges across ten local authorities, these include:

Aberdeen City—A new fee of £280 was introduced for paired lessons, which were not offered previously. At the same time, group lesson fees were dropped from £272 to £242 while individual lessons rose to £400 from £340.

Argyll and Bute—Tuition fees rose from £238.97 to £247.74.

Eilean Siar—All tuition was offered free of charge to all pupils with the exception of non-SQA strings and guitar pupils. These instruments were charged at £12.50 per lesson, or roughly £375 per year.

Falkirk—The rate for standard music fees has increased by £6 to £160.

Inverclyde—Annual fee increasing from £117 to £120 (£3 increase per year).

Midlothian—Increased fees from £205.50 to £215.34.

Moray—Group charges rose by £26.40 and individual charges by £37.80.

Scottish Borders—Increase in charges for continued instruction to £150

Shetland Islands—Increase in group charges to £160 and individual charges to £210. New remote lessons were also offered at £160.

Stirling—Fees increased £9 to £276

South Lanarkshire—Fees increased from £210 to £216

Table 1: Instrumental Music Tuition Charges 2012-2019. All charges are for group lessons unless stated

Council	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current 2019/20 fees
Clackmannanshire	£220	£222	£228	£230	£235	£258.50	£524	£524
West Lothian	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	£354	£354
Highland	£252	£252	£264	£264	£290.40	£318	£318	£318
East Renfrewshire	£160	£180	£200	£250	£300	£300	£300	£300
Perth and Kinross	£245.85	£245.85	£245.85	£245.85	£245.85	£245.85	£295	£295
Moray	£201 group, £300 individual	£201 group, £300 individual	£210 group, £300 individual	£210 group, £300 individual	£252 group, £360 individual	£264.60 group, £378 individual	£264 group, £378 individual	£291 group, £415.80 individual
East Lothian	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	£280	£280
Stirling	£189 group, £309 individual	£189 group, £309 individual	£240 group (no individual lessons)	£246	£252	£258	£267	£276
Argyll & Bute	£138	£142.15	£146.40	£150.80	£226.20	£232.98	£239.97	£247.74
Aberdeen City	£272 group, £340 individual	£272 group, £340 individual	£272 group, £340 individual	£272 group, £340 individual	£272 group, £340 individual	£272 group, £340 individual	£272 group, £340 individual	£242 group, £280 paired, £400 individual
Angus	£183	£192	£201 + £30 hire	£210 + £30 hire	£231 + £30 hire	£231 + £30 hire	£231 + £30 hire	£231 + £30 hire
Aberdeenshire	£192 group, £284 individual	£196 group, £292 individual	£200 group, £300 individual	£204 group, £304 individual	£208 group, £308 individual	£212 group, £316 individual	£220 group, £328 individual	£220 group, £328 individual
Fife	£125	£125	£125	£140	£180	£220	£220	£220
South Lanarkshire	£180 (£60 per lesson block)	£180 (£60 per lesson block)	£180 (£60 per lesson block)	£210	£210	£210	£210	£216
Midlothian	£150	£160	£168	£84	No Charge	No Charge	£205.50	£215.34
Dumfries & Galloway	£130 + £47.15 hire	No charge, £47.15 hire	No charge, £47.15 hire	No charge, £47.15 hire	£200 + £49 hire	£200 + £49.50 hire	£200	£200
South Ayrshire	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	£200	£200

Council	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current 2019/20 fees
North Ayrshire	£120	£140	£160	£180	£180	£180	£198	£198
East Ayrshire	£100 group, £150 individual	£100 group, £150 individual	£150	£180	£180	£180	£180	£180
East Dunbartonshire	£140	£140	£160	£160	£165	£170	£177	£230
Falkirk	£44.40 group, £178.20 individual + £20.40 hire	£140	£140	£140	£156	£156	£154	£160
Shetland Islands	£140	£140	£160	£129 group, £172 individual	£135 group, £180 individual	£140 group, £190 individual	£150 group, £200 individual	£160 group, £160 remote/ blended teaching, £210 individual
North Lanarkshire	£150	£150	£150	£150	£150	£150	£150	£150
Scottish Borders	£125	£125	£125	£125	£132	£140	£140	£150
Inverclyde	£95.50	£98	£100	£110	£114	£117	£117	£120
Eilean Siar	No charges for lessons in wind, brass, Gaelic singing or piping. In the 2016/17 sessions pupils were charged for fiddle and guitar lessons in the Nicolson including those sitting SQA exams on those instruments. Charges for these lessons were set at £12.50 per lesson. There are an average of 32 lessons per year, costing £400 pupil per year. Group lessons were £200 per pupil per year.							
West Dunbartonshire	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No charge (£85 instrument hire)	No charge (£100 instrument hire)
Dundee City	£132 + £83 hire	No Charge, £83 hire	No Charge, £83 hire	No Charge, £83 hire	No Charge, £83 hire	No Charge, £83 hire	No Charge, £85 hire	No Charge
Edinburgh, City of	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No charge	No charge
Glasgow	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No charge	No charge
Orkney Islands	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No charge	No charge
Renfrewshire	£150	£150	£150	£150	£150	No Charge	No charge	No charge

Instrumental music services across Scotland normally provide instruments to pupils for hire or loan, with variation amongst local authorities as to the policies and charges for these instruments. In some cases, instruments are loaned at no cost, or included as part of the tuition cost.

Twenty-eight local authorities offered free instrument hire or loans for a certain period of time in 2018/19. In many cases pupils will then be encouraged to buy their own instrument where possible. There were also some exceptions where fees were charged only for certain instruments.

Four local authorities offered instrument hire at an additional cost in 2018/19. As in 2017/18, Angus charged a £30 annual fee for instrument hire. West Dunbartonshire introduced a charge of £85 per year for a first instrument with additional instruments available at a 50% discount in session 2018/19. Scottish Borders Council also charged a £78 annual hire fee for any SQA pupils who did not have their own instrument. Dundee City increased their charge for hire to £85, but have removed this for 2019/20. Dumfries and Galloway had previously charged for instrument hire, but the decision was made to remove this for the 2018/19 session. Some additional examples of the policies for instrument hire include:

- **Argyll and Bute** do not have a hiring policy but do offer free instruments for one year,
- **East Dunbartonshire Council** loan instruments to beginners where required, but do not offer a hire scheme.
- **East Lothian** do not offer a hire scheme but offer a 2-year instrument loan free of charge.
- **North Lanarkshire** does not offer a hire scheme but does provide larger, expensive instruments to pupils.
- **Stirling Council** offers instruments for hire for two years and pupils are then asked to provide their own.
- **South Lanarkshire** do not offer a hire or loan scheme meaning that pupils must pay for their own instruments, but some larger, more expensive instruments can be used free of charge.

Other local authorities also offer instrument hire with exceptions for certain instruments, for example:

- **Dumfries and Galloway** do not offer free instrument hire for drums and guitars.
- **Moray** offer free instrument hire except for percussion instruments.

In 2019/20, three local authorities are increasing or introducing instrument hire charges:

- **Aberdeen City**—An annual charge of £85 for hire of instrument (any instrument) is being introduced.
- **Scottish Borders**—Increase in charges for hire of instrument to £82.
- **West Dunbartonshire**— Instrument hire charge increased to £100.

Instrument hire, like tuition fees in many other local authorities, will have a range of applicable concessions, for example for pupils entitled to Free School Meals, which will be discussed in the section below.

In addition to regular tuition, instrumental music services across the country also offer a range of additional activities which pupils can participate in. These activities include groups, bands

and ensembles which offer pupils the opportunity to play their instruments in a group setting, often with the opportunity to participate in concerts. These activities most often do not incur any additional charge and are run through subsidy from the local authority, with IMS staff often volunteering or working overtime to run these activities. However, in 21 local authorities all or part of the cost of these activities is passed on to pupils. Some local authorities also offer residential courses or trips for groups that incur a higher cost which cannot be covered by the IMS alone. In 2018/19 approximately 18,797 pupils participated in various additional activities across Scotland, although not all local authorities could provide exact details for the number taking part. This equates to roughly 30% of all IMS pupils in 2018/19. Further details about additional activities can be found in the appended summary tables.



Concessions

All 25 local authorities who charged for instrumental music lessons in 2018/19 also offered some form of concession. Full exemption from fees is offered to SQA pupils, that is pupils taking a national qualification in music, in all of these local authorities and some form of concession is also offered for families with low incomes. 23 local authorities use Free School Meal entitlement as criteria for low income and offered full or part exemptions to pupils entitled to this in 2018/19. 2 local authorities, Angus and Perth and Kinross, offer exemptions to pupils with parents claiming equivalent benefits.⁷ These changes are in line with COSLA's 'Instrumental Music Tuition Guidance 2019'.

Research shows that music can be particularly beneficial to those from low income families. As quoted in one study of the impact of instrumental music lessons: "Given that socioeconomic status impacts language functioning and the neural encoding of speech... affordable in-class musical training may be able to ameliorate some of the negative consequences of impoverishment."⁸ Therefore, providing exemptions and concessions to pupils from low income families, such as those claiming Free School Meals, could be especially impactful in improving the lives and long term outcomes of these children. Several local authorities have further concession rates for low income families beyond FSM entitlement:

- **Angus**—Lessons are free to children whose parents are in receipt of Income support, Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Employment & Support Allowance (Income-related), Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit (with annual income of less than £16,495) or Universal Credit (take home pay must be less than £610 per month)
- **Clackmannanshire**—A concessionary rate of £117.50 (roughly 77% reduction) is available to pupils whose family are in receipt of housing benefit/income support/universal credit.
- **Inverclyde**—Full exemption for pupils whose parents are in receipt of state benefits
- **Midlothian**—100 bursaries covering 100% of fees are provided to pupils from households with a joint income of less than £26,884 p.a.
- **Perth & Kinross** —Full exemption to pupils with parents in receipt of Employment Support Allowance; Income Based Job-Seekers Allowance; Universal Credit (Where monthly income is not more than £610)
- **Stirling**—Families in receipt of Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction/Benefit, Education Maintenance Allowance, and Universal Credit where income is below £1350 per month receive a discount on fees. Further concessions are to be added in 2019/20.

Three local authorities have made the decision to completely remove fees for pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) where previously a concessionary fee had been charged. These were Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, and Stirling Councils. This means that no children in receipt of Free School Meals, or where their parents claim equivalent benefits, will pay tuition fees for the 2019/20 academic year. South Ayrshire, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils introduced fees in 2018/19. In all three of these local authorities full exemptions apply to pupils in receipt of FSM and SQA Music pupils.

⁷ Parents in receipt of Employment Support Allowance; Income Based Job-Seekers Allowance; Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit (with annual income of less than £16,495); or Universal Credit (where monthly income is not more than £610)

⁸ Tierney, A , Krizman, J, Skoe, A, Johnston, K and Kraus, N (2013) 'High school music classes enhance the neural processing of speech'

Additional concession rates are also offered in a number of local authorities. The most common concession type is sibling discount which is provided in thirteen local authorities and the discount applied varies between them:

- **Aberdeenshire**—20% sibling discount.
- **Angus**—Second child 20% discount (£184.80), third and subsequent children 40% discount (£138.60).
- **Argyll & Bute**—£15 discount for siblings.
- **Dumfries & Galloway, Scottish Borders**—Full exemption for third sibling and subsequent siblings.
- **East Ayrshire**—50% discount (£90) for second child where the first child is paying £180, full exemption for third child and above where the second child pays £90.
- **East Dunbartonshire, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, West Lothian**—50% sibling discount.
- **East Lothian**—£40 discount for siblings where full fee is paid (£240).
- **East Renfrewshire**—25% sibling discount.
- **South Ayrshire**—50% (£100) discount for second children and full exemption for third children

Other concessions:

- **Argyll & Bute**—50% subsidy from Argyll Piping Trust and Kintyre Piping Trust.
- **North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire**—Full exemption of fees for Looked After Children
- **North Lanarkshire**—Full exemption of fees for children with additional support needs
- **Scottish Borders, Shetland, Stirling**—Full exemption of fees for those children receiving a Clothing Grant
- **South Lanarkshire**—Full exemption for P5 instrumental music tuition pupils

Percentage of IMS pupils receiving concessions/exemptions

In 2018/19 there was a total of 57,496 IMS pupils. Of these pupils, there were at least 12,520 receiving concessions/exemptions from tuition fees. Amongst the 25 local authorities who charge fees this amounted to 32.4% of all IMS pupils. Within individual local authorities, where data is available, the proportion receiving concessions/exemptions ranges from 10% to 51%. The most common type of exemption amongst local authorities is exemptions for SQA music pupils, which made up the majority of all concession types in most local authorities. Exceptions to this were Angus, East Ayrshire, Fife, Highland, Moray and North Ayrshire where Free School Meal or benefits exemptions were the largest group of concessions. West Dunbartonshire did not charge for tuition, but offered free instrument hire to pupils receiving Free School Meals or studying for SQA exams. This year multiple councils also reported that a small number of places were funded through the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF). PEF funding is designed to improve outcomes of the most vulnerable, therefore its use towards Instrumental Music Services suggests that head teachers recognise the positive benefits that IMS provides.

Table 2 displays the number and proportion of all IMS pupils who received concessions or exemptions in 2018/19. The table also displays the total number of pupils who received instrumental music lessons at some point during the 2018/19 academic year in each local authority. These figures include pupils who received lessons in music centres if these lessons were part of the core service, but do not account for other pupils who took part in additional activities.

Table 2: Number of IMS pupils who received concessions/exemptions

Local Authority	No. of IMS pupils 2018/19	No. of IMS pupils who received concessions/exemptions in 2018/19	Total no. and % of IMS pupils who received concessions/exemptions 2018/19
Aberdeen City	1700		Unknown
Aberdeenshire	2965		1106 (37%)
Angus	950	104 SQA Music Pupils 193 Benefits Exempt 6 Pupil Equity Fund 84 Sibling Discount	387 (41%)
Argyll & Bute	1185	60 SQA Music Pupils 54 FSM 87 Sibling Discount 513 Probationers & 179 Piping	293 (25%) (excluding 513 probationers)
Clackmannanshire	309	138 SQA Music Pupils 10 FSM and Income Support/ Housing Benefit	148 (48%)
Dumfries & Galloway	750	196 SQA Music Pupils 86 FSM/Clothing Grant	282 (38%)
East Ayrshire	1214	135 SQA Music Pupils 194 Benefits 94 Sibling Discount	423 (35%)
East Dunbartonshire	1226	178 SQA Music Pupils 65 FSM 133 Sibling Discount	376 (31%)
East Lothian	1119		174 (16%)
East Renfrewshire	1705	365 SQA Music Pupils 62 FSM 189 Sibling Discount	616 (36%)
Falkirk	1925		309 (16%)
Fife	3645	362 SQA Music Pupils 568 FSM (41 both FSM & SQA)	889 (24%)
Highland	3600	201 SQA Music Pupils 348 Benefits 47 Special Exemption/Looked After Children/Special Payment Arrangement	596 (17%)
Inverclyde	1297	167 SQA Music Pupils 263 Triallists 439 Primary 57 FSM/Other Exemption	224 (17%) (excluding 263 triallists and 439 Primary School pupils)
Midlothian	994	82 FSM	304 (31%)

Local Authority	No. of IMS pupils 2018/19	No. of IMS pupils who received concessions/exemptions in 2018/19	Total no. and % of IMS pupils who received concessions/exemptions 2018/19
Moray	594	40 SQA Music Pupils 57 FSM	97 (16%)
North Ayrshire	1304	181 SQA Music Pupils 271 FSM 98 Sibling Discount	550 (42%)
North Lanarkshire	2646	720 SQA Music Pupils 452 FSM/CG 66 Sibling Discount 51 ASN 26 Second Instrument 403 1-year YMI	1315 (50%) (excluding 403 YMI)
Perth & Kinross	1564	126 SQA Music Pupils 22 FSM/Income Support 6 Assisted Places	154 (10%)
Scottish Borders	878	108 SQA Music Pupils 59 FSM 37 School Clothing Grant 2 Sibling Discount	208 (24%)
Shetland Islands	779	84 SQA Music Pupils 52 FSM/CG	136 (17%)
South Ayrshire	1133	209 SQA Music Pupils 104 FSM 115 Sibling Discount 14 Fully or Half Paid by School	413 (36%)
South Lanarkshire	2850	1400 SQA Music Pupils 60 FSM 500 P5 Exemptions (YMI) 269 SQA Music Pupils	1460 (51%) (excluding 500 Primary 5 YMI pupils)
Stirling	1030	199 SQA Music Pupils 76 Benefits Exempt (44 FSM)	275 (27%)
West Lothian	1197	78 FSM 162 SQA Music Pupils 123 FSM 114 Sibling Discount	399 (33%)

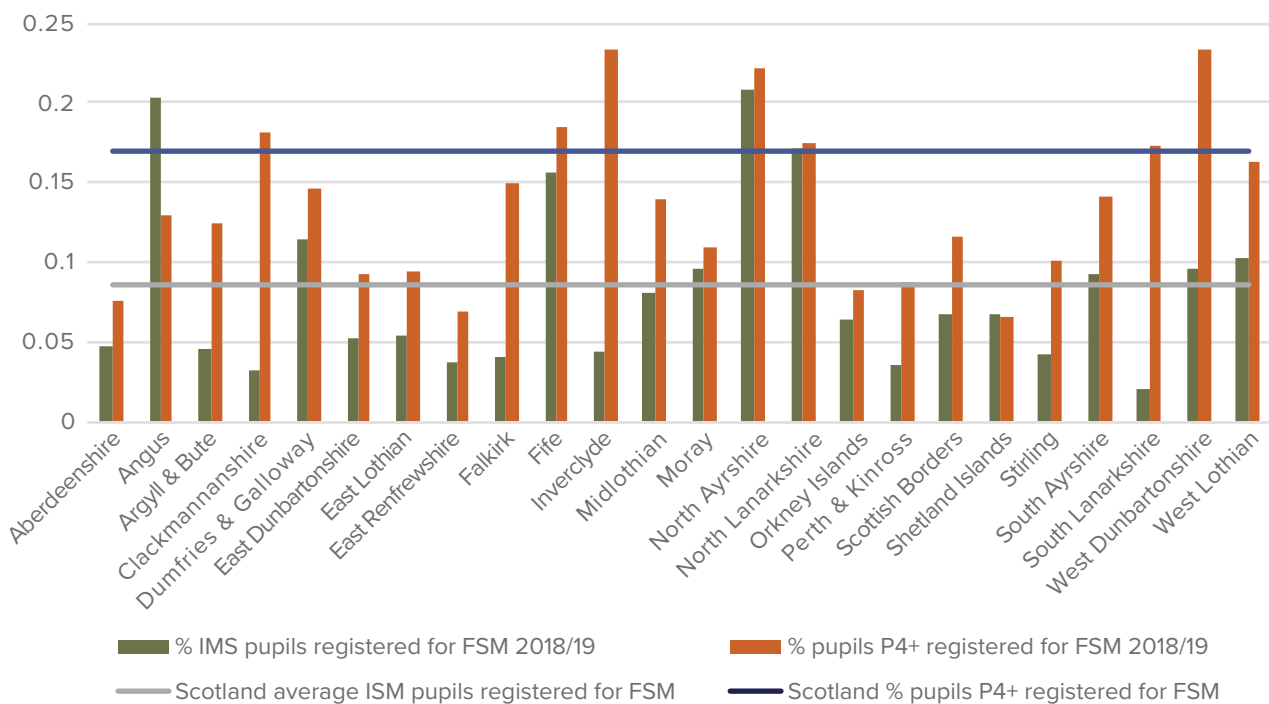
Free School Meal Entitlement (FSM)

Free School Meals (FSM) are offered across Scotland to pupils in Primary 4 onwards whose families are in receipt of a range of qualifying benefits. In 2019 the total number of P4+ pupils registered for Free School Meals was 86,303, equating to 17% of the total P4+ pupil roll. Within instrumental music services across Scotland there were 2,855 pupils who were registered for FSM, roughly 5% of all IMS pupils or 8.5% of pupils within local authorities who provided

FSM data. Both figures would suggest that pupils registered for FSM are under-represented within IMS services in comparison to the overall school population. It should be noted that not all instrumental music services hold accurate records of the number of FSM pupils using the service. This is influenced by a variety of factors. For example, some services that have no tuition fees do not need to record these details for concession purposes, and in those services where tuition fees are in place, pupils may already be exempt through another concession policy and therefore FSM eligibility is not recorded.

Amongst the local authorities where FSM registration figures have been provided, the proportion of IMS pupils who are registered for FSM ranges from 2% to 21%. The representation of FSM pupils within instrumental music services varies between councils, as can be seen in Figure 1 which shows the proportion of IMS pupils registered for FSM compared with the total number of pupils P4+ registered for FSM within the local authority. Again, however, given the lack of available data for certain local authorities, these figures should be treated with caution and do not necessarily represent all IMS pupils registered for FSM.

Figure 1: % IMS Pupils Claiming FSM compared to % all pupils claiming FSM

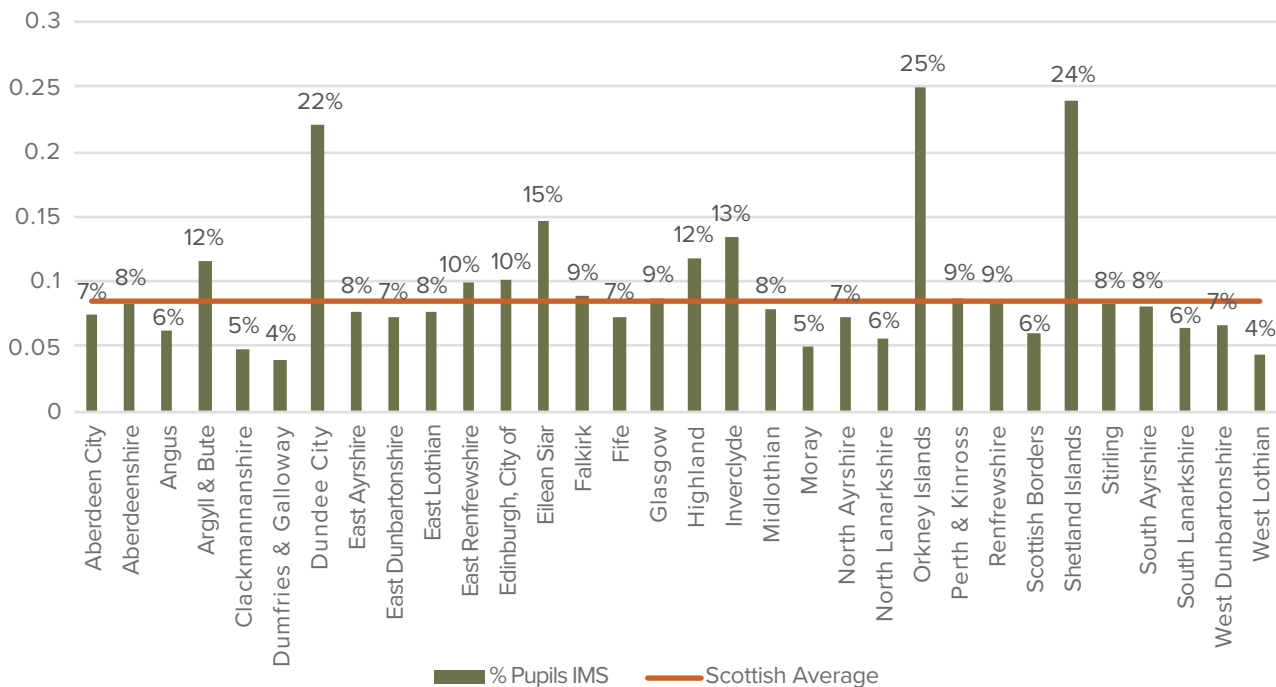




Number of IMS Pupils

In total, 57,496 pupils received instrumental music lessons from their local authority service at some point in 2018/19 from a total pupil population of 685,380. This figure equates to 8.4% of all Scottish school pupils. Since 2017/18 this is a decrease of 2,830 pupils or 5%. In this period, the number of school pupils also decreased by 0.61% meaning the overall change in the percentage of pupils taking instrumental music was a drop of 0.5 percentage points from 8.9%. Between local authorities the proportion of school pupils taking part in instrumental music lessons ranges from 4% to 25%. The variation in these proportions is displayed in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Proportion of pupils taking instrumental music lessons 2018/19



Although the number of IMS pupils in each local authority has fluctuated over time, 2018/19 is the second consecutive year of the survey where overall pupil numbers have fallen. Across all local authorities, 18 reported a reduction in pupil numbers between 2017/18 and 2018/19. Local authorities highlighted increased charges and a reduction in teaching capacity due to financial constraints as reasons for this. This reduction was a similar proportion of local authorities reporting a reduction to 2016/17 and 2017/18. There were several large decreases in pupil numbers this year, with three local authorities reporting a decrease of more than a third. Table 3 displays the numbers of pupils receiving instrumental music tuition between 2012/13 and 2018/19.

Table 3 - Number of Instrumental Music Pupils

Local Authority	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Aberdeen City	2760	2642	2255	2500	3371	3300	1700
Aberdeenshire	3389	3025	2955	2576	3060	3171	2965
Angus	1500	1200	1434	1146	932	954	Approx. 950
Argyll & Bute	1258	1435	1334	1226	1141	1056	1185
Clackmannanshire	432	448	345	444	392	432	309
Dumfries & Galloway	1210	1317	1552	1294	1166	809	750
Dundee City	2200	2669	2938	3538	3677	3793	3987
East Ayrshire	1147	783	823	1002	1242	1194	1214
East Dunbartonshire	1301	1600	1410	1586	1382	1191	1226
East Lothian	1284	1318	1327	1331	1341	1245	1119
East Renfrewshire	1942	1938	1904	2010	1732	1596	1705
Edinburgh	4758	4912	5215	5100	5089	5084	5089
Eilean Siar	360	500	500	766	2323 (inc. Gaelic Singing) 540 (excl. Gaelic Singing)	1898 (inc. Gaelic singing), 868 (excl. Gaelic singing)	496
Falkirk	1142	965	1376	1950	2057	1854	1925
Fife	3494	3161	3332	4415	4434	3365	3645
Glasgow	4538	4551	4573	4597	4919	5448	5876
Highland	3100	3200	3400	3450	3100	2900	3600
Inverclyde	1015	1300-1400	1677	1388	958	1298 (inc. 161 withdrawn)	1297
Midlothian	1100	1100	1221	1312	1302	1321 (426 received instruction in 2 instruments)	994
Moray	850	850	893	910	815	800	594
North Ayrshire	1570	1627	1554	1487	1555	1432	1304
North Lanarkshire	3853	3670	3685	3599	3409	2941	2646
Orkney Islands	498	500	531	581	646	663	695
Perth & Kinross	1590	1605	1690	1711	1762	1716	1564
Renfrewshire	1050	1280	1534	1546	1532	1949	1981

Local Authority	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Scottish Borders	716	862	895	995	906	907	878
Shetland Islands	662	561	570	724	721	722	779
South Ayrshire	1222	1319	1240	1126	1266	1197	1133
South Lanarkshire	2957	3029	3035	3050	2990	2900	2850
Stirling	810	844	844	898	950	940	1030
West Dunbartonshire	964	891	941	926	1034	1102	813
West Lothian	2448	2395	2468	2397	2194	2178	1197
Scotland	57120	57547	59451	61581	61615	60326	57496

The growth in pupil numbers varies between local authorities who charge tuition fees and those who do not. Figure 3 displays the change in pupil numbers over time for both charging and non-charging local authorities. Local authorities have been grouped depending on whether the local authority charged for tuition in 2018/19. Since 2012/13, non-charging local authorities have seen a relatively large increase in pupil numbers, increasing 32% over the period. Charging authorities in contrast have had an overall decline of 9.8% in pupil numbers. There are, however, factors other than price which influence the uptake of lessons and several local authorities who charged for tuition saw large increases in pupil numbers. The area which saw the largest percentage growth amongst all local authorities between 2017/18 and 2018/19 was Highland where there was a 24% increase in the number of pupils receiving lessons, while Argyll and Bute and Stirling saw pupil numbers rise by 12.2% and 9.6% respectively. All three of these councils charged for tuition in 2018/19. It should be noted that the local authorities who charged for instrumental music tuition have changed over time.

Figure 3: IMS Pupil Number Changes - 2012/13 to 2018/19

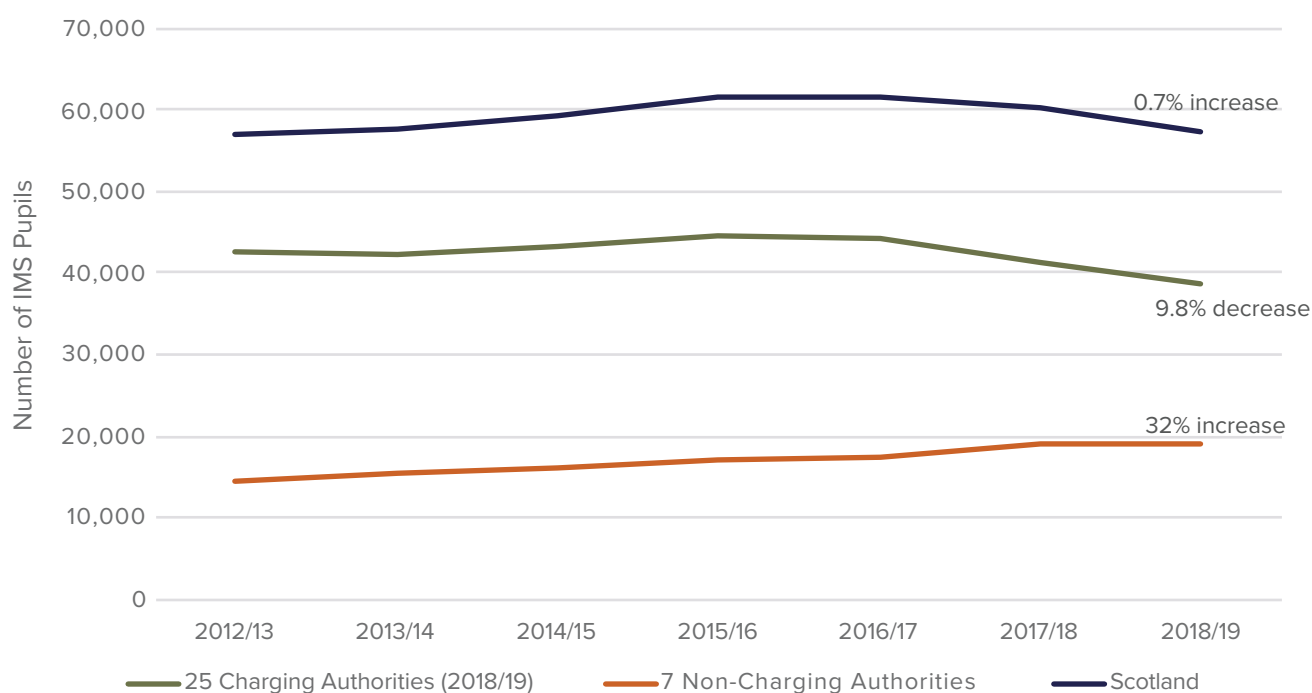
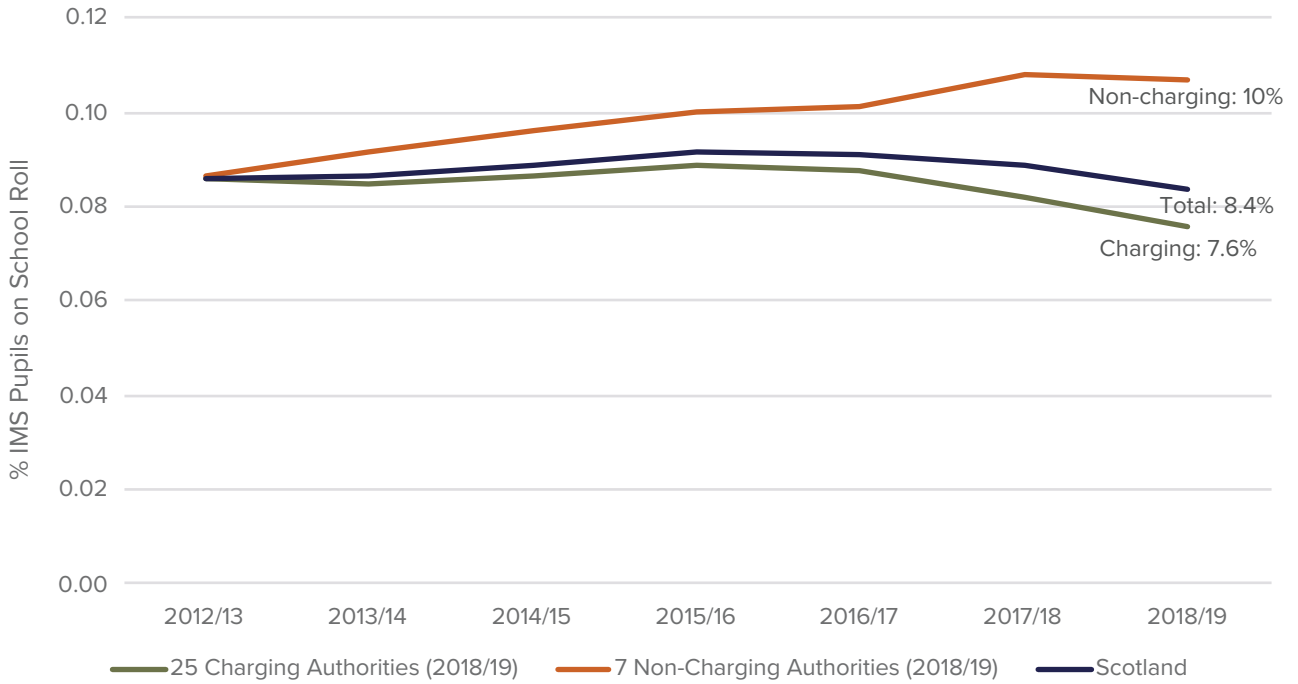


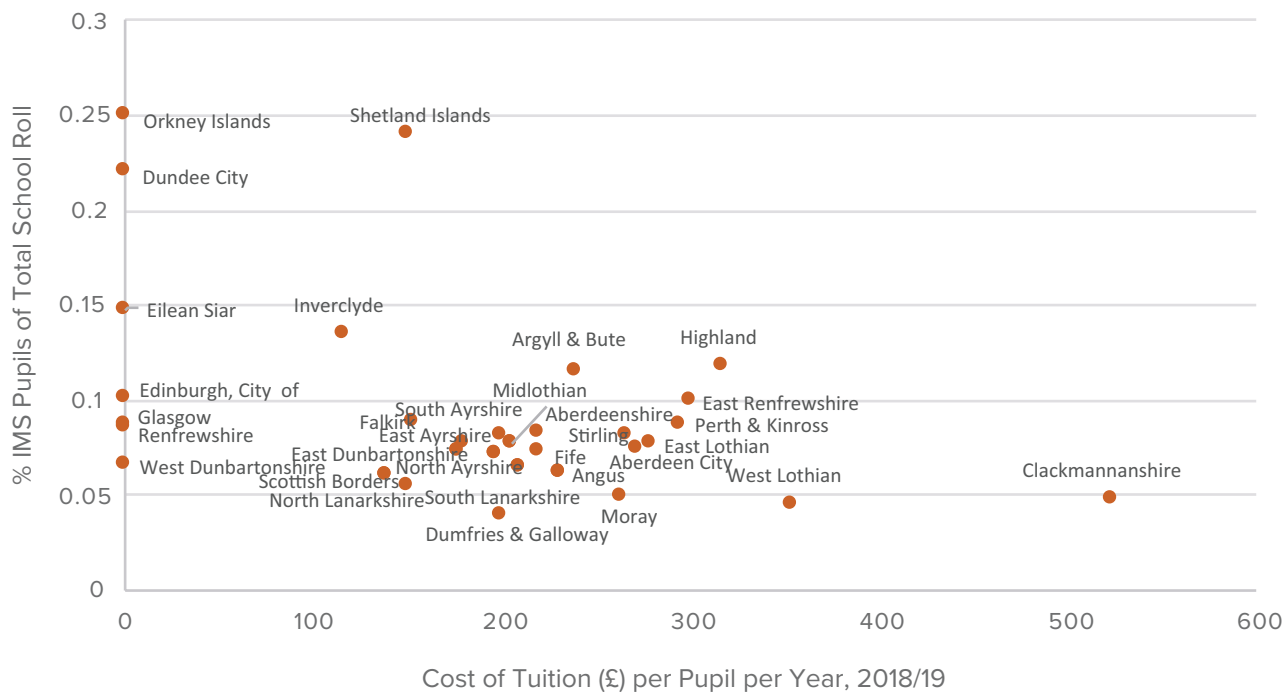
Figure 4 displays the percentage of pupils within local authorities participating in instrumental music tuition. These figures also show that authorities without charges have a higher proportion of pupils taking part. The figures also show that the participation rate has fallen across both charging and non-charging authorities since 2017/18.

Figure 4: Percentage of Pupils Participating in IMS, 2012/13 to 2018/19



In 2018/19 there was a weak negative relationship between the proportional uptake in music tuition and charges for tuition. This means that local authorities with higher charges tended to have a slightly lower proportion of pupils undertaking instrumental music tuition. This could be partly caused by two councils with no charges and very high uptake – Dundee City and Orkney Islands Councils. Figure 5 displays the percentage of pupils who took instrumental music tuition in 2018/19 out of the whole school roll compared with the cost of tuition among local authorities.

Figure 5: Percentage of IMS Pupils by Cost of Tuition, 2018/19





Selection Procedures

Demand for instrumental music lessons outweighs resources in the majority of local authorities, as has been the case historically. Only seven local authorities were able to provide provision for all interested pupils in 2018/19. In most local authorities the pressure on resources means that providing instrumental music lessons to all interested pupils is just not possible despite a desire to do so. Most local authorities maintain that limited resources, such as staffing, particularly for certain popular instruments, timetable space and not having available instruments were their main barriers to providing music tuition to all pupils.

Local authorities have different means of balancing the demand for provision with the available resources. Whilst some use selection procedures to narrow provision to the most suitable pupils, others work on a first come first served basis with waiting lists for those where provision is not available. Aberdeenshire Council are also piloting larger group lessons in order to increase provision.

Specific selection procedures were used in 18 local authorities in 2018/19. Aberdeenshire had a selection process for pupils, but this was removed for 2019/20. These selection procedures tend to include some form of aptitude test to assess the pupils' ability to learn a new instrument, alongside consultations with staff and parents. These types of tests are also used in other local authorities not as a means of selecting which pupils will receive lessons, but in order to ensure pupils are best placed with the correct instrument and both pupils and families are happy with their choices.



Other Variations in IMS Policies

In most local authorities, instrumental tuition is first offered to pupils when they reach Primary 4. However, in a large proportion of local authorities only certain instruments are offered at this school level and tuition in other instruments is generally not offered until later stages in the pupils' school career. String instruments are the most common instrument to be offered first whilst tuition in percussion instruments are generally offered much later. Research has shown that the younger children are involved in music tuition the greater benefit it has throughout their lives. This is highlighted by the results of Hetland's study in 2000 which showed that "the spatial abilities of younger children are more strongly enhanced by music instruction than are those of older children."⁹

The vast majority of local authorities do allow pupils to apply for instrumental music tuition in more than one instrument. Whilst some local authorities have no restrictions on whether pupils apply for tuition in more than one instrument other than resources, many local authorities only allow lessons in a second instrument in special circumstances. Permitting circumstances often include pupils who need tuition in a second instrument as part of their SQA Music course, or pupils who plan to continue further education in music. In most cases, however, tuition in a second instrument tends to only take place where resources permit, and not at the expense of another pupil receiving tuition in their first instrument. In local authorities where pupils can receive tuition in more than one instrument and tuition fees apply to instrumental tuition, around half apply concession/exemption policies to this second instrument.

The length of instrumental music lessons also varies amongst local authorities. On average, most pupils receive a minimum of 25 minutes tuition per instrument per week, but lessons range from a minimum of 15 minutes to a maximum of one hour. Longer lessons are most common in larger group lessons or for secondary pupils who are more likely to be sitting exams. Local authorities also vary in the number of pupils in a group lesson. Most local authorities allow individual lessons; however, lessons are regularly taught in small groups. On average, the maximum group size amongst local authorities is just under 8 pupils but in a small number of cases groups can be as large as 33 where whole classes are taught together. Pupils on average receive as a minimum 30 weeks of lessons per year, but the service guaranteed minimum varies across councils. Many local authorities offer more lessons than their service minimum, depending on resources. Some also offer refunds on tuition fees if the service minimum is not met.

These policies have not changed substantially from previous years. Further details of these policies can be found in the appended summary tables.

9 Rauscher, FH & Hinton, S.C (2011) '*Music Instruction and its Diverse Extra-Musical Benefits*' pp.218

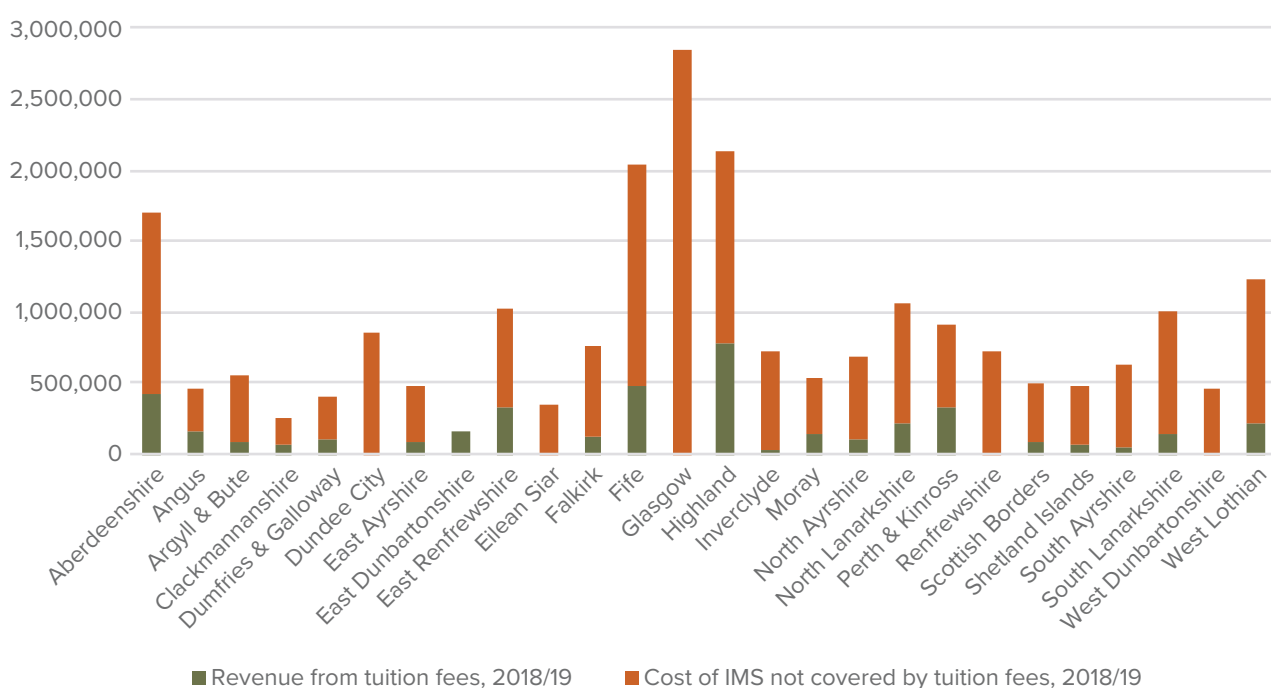


Revenue and Budget Allocations

In total in 2018/19, for the 27 local authorities where data was provided, the gross cost of providing instrumental music services was £25,999,720. At a local authority level, the average cost of providing these services has increased in cash terms in the most recent year by 5.4%, and by 3.8% in real terms, however care should be taken in analysing these results due to missing data. Looking only at local authorities where data was provided for both 2017/18 and 2018/19, 38% of these 26 local authorities have shown no change or a reduction in the cash terms gross cost of their instrumental music service between these two years. The average change across all local authorities was an increase of 3%, slightly higher than the rate of inflation. Changes varied considerably, ranging between a drop of 20% to an increase of 18.8%.

In local authorities where tuition fees apply, part of the gross running cost is covered by revenue generated from these fees. The increase in average spend on instrumental music could partly be the result of increasing fees in multiple authorities. Between 2017/18 and 2018/19 revenue from fees increased by 3.3% in cash terms. Not all local authorities could provide this data for 2018/19, so it is likely that the total increase in revenue would be higher than reported. The proportion of running costs covered by these fees in charging authorities ranges between 4% and 36%. Figure 6 shows the split in cost covered by tuition fees and the total provided by the local authority or other sources. Overall, the combined revenue generated by all authorities accounted for 16% of the total gross running cost, and 23% of the total running costs for only charging authorities.¹⁰

Figure 6 - Revenue from Tuition Fees Compared to Gross Cost of IMS, 2018/19



¹⁰ Among local authorities where data was provided:
 Revenue from tuition fees: £4,165,152
 Gross total cost: £25,999,720.1
 Gross total cost, charging authorities: 18,357,520.17

The percentage of the education budget allocated to instrumental music services has reduced or stayed the same in the majority of local authorities. In 2018/19 instrumental music services accounted for between 0.004% and 1% of local authority education budgets. Since 2017/18, 38% of 21 local authorities who provided data for both years have had a reduction in this proportion. For all authorities, the average change was a reduction of 0.09%. This change could also be reflective of the increase in charging authorities since the previous year, as increased revenue may have replaced expenditure previously provided by the local authority education budget.

Variation in the proportion of the cost covered by tuition fees is partly a result of variation in tuition fees, as well as variation in pupil uptake. There is no strong relationship between running costs and tuition fees, meaning that local authorities with higher running costs do not necessarily charge higher fees. There is, however, a positive correlation between running costs and pupil numbers, as higher numbers of pupils result in a greater level of resource needed. This means that for local authorities that charge high tuition fees, although their running cost will increase as pupil numbers increase, a greater proportion of this cost will be covered by tuition fees, compared with local authorities where fees are lower.

In some local authorities, part of the running cost of instrumental music services is covered by private sponsorship. In others, private sponsorship arrangements are in place to help provide additional activities outside the core instrumental music tuition. These various arrangements have changed very little since previous surveys. Details of these arrangements are available in the appended summary tables.



Instrumental Music Instructors

The majority of local authority instrumental music services provide a wide range of instrumental instruction including tuition in strings, woodwind, brass, guitar, percussion and traditional instruments. Tuition in strings has continually taken the greatest resource with the largest number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) instructors hired in this discipline across Scotland. This can be seen in Table 4 which displays the number of FTE instructors hired in each discipline across Scotland between 2013/14 and 2018/19. A breakdown of FTE instructors within each local authority in 2018/19 is available in the appended summary tables.

Table 4: FTE by discipline, 2013/14 - 2018/19

Discipline	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Strings	180.3	175.3	174	168.2	166.46	162.03
Woodwind	124.5	123.3	123.5	119.6	122.22	114.61
Brass	120.8	125.2	123.1	119.8	118.05	111.82
Percussion/Drum Kit	64.4	62.2	64.4	64.7	64.87	64.56
Guitar	56.8	60.6	61.1	58.9	58.94	59.57
Traditional Instruments (exc. Piping & Highland Drumming)			9.3	7.5	6.51	7.07
Bagpipes/Chanter			33.1	34.8	37.1	38
Highland Drumming			4.6	5.1	4.7	8.6
Traditional Instruments (inc. Piping & Highland Drumming)	37.5	46.5	47	47.4	48.31	53.67
Voice	17.8	19.3	21.5	27.4	20.38	21.34
Piano/Keyboard	43.6	41.8	43.7	41.3	42.59	35.85
Other: (please specify)	4.8	2.4	7.3	6	6.6	8.86

The number of FTE instructors across Scotland reduced between 2015/16 and 2016/17, but increased slightly in 2017/18. However, the figures for 2018/19 show a further decrease of around 4%. This means that tutor numbers are at the lowest recorded in any iteration of this survey. Alongside this overall decrease in FTE, the number of full-time instructors fell by 28 from 2017/18, and part-time instructor numbers also dropped by 35. It is likely that these reductions have contributed to the fall in total pupil numbers within these services. The breakdown for instructor numbers is displayed in Table 5.

Table 5: Total Instrumental Instructor Numbers 2013/14 - 2018/19

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
FTE	651.9	657.2	660.3	640.6	644.14	619.98
Full-Time	412	411	415	413	401	373
Part-Time	483	465	433	392	457	422



Reviewing Practices

There are a variety of procedures and policies for reviewing, engaging and sharing information across instrumental music services in Scotland. Examples of these procedures are available in the appended Summary Tables.

Different instrumental music services have different means of reviewing current policies around charging and concessions. In a number of cases these policies are reviewed in line with other charging policies across the councils. In some cases, decisions are also made by elected members. Many local authorities also mentioned that COSLA guidance will be used in future.¹¹ A selection of other reviewing practices includes:

- Falkirk Instrumental Music Service continue to carry out equity and poverty impact assessments and use comparisons with fees across Scotland in their review practice
- The exemption policy in Highland Instrumental Music Service is reviewed annually in line with appropriate tax/benefit changes
- In Inverclyde, any changes or policy reviews are identified by senior management and passed to Committee for approval/dismissal by elected members.
- In North Ayrshire, all proposed changes are made in line with Council Procedures and efficiencies The COSLA guidance will also be used in the future
- In Stirling local councillors are provided with information about procedures and policies elsewhere in Scotland with recommendations.
- In South Ayrshire data and information is gathered on numbers receiving instrumental instruction across schools within the authority. This gives a clear picture of uptake and opportunity and informs the service of any trends or patterns that may develop. This is used to monitor uptake particularly across SIMD areas allowing the council to plan ahead to support equity and opportunity.

Procedures for engaging with parents/carers also vary by local authority, however the majority of services have several means of engaging. This usually involves a combination of some of the following: information booklets; contract guidelines and/or publicity leaflets; record books/diaries; tuition progress reports; parents' evenings and meetings; parent committees and support groups; surveys; concerts and events; information shared on the council/IMS website; as well as more bespoke communication via social media, letters, telephone, and email.

In addition to the continued completion of the annual National Instrumental Music Survey, instrumental music services continue to ensure that information about their individual services are shared with colleagues in other local authorities. The Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland (HITS) network continues to help facilitate the sharing of this information alongside work done by individual services. For example:

- A number of local authorities, including East Renfrewshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and East Ayrshire have joint in-service events with neighbouring local authorities to build capacity for professional learning.
- Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City have dialogue and joined up working around their IMS.

¹¹ www.cosla.gov.uk//music-instrumental-music-tuition-guidance-2019pdf

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar employ an officer who attends Creative Scotland YMI and Expressive Arts to share information and best practice about their work in the local authority with other officers across the country.
- National conferences and seminars
- Sharing through social media



Summary

Research shows that teaching music is important to bridge cultural diversity among pupils and allows them to share and learn about different cultures. It also helps pupils with cognitive tasks and improves pupils' attitudes towards reading, writing and mathematics. Research also highlights the benefits instrumental music can have on children's lives such as teaching them transferable skills such as commitment, dedication, practice, confidence and many more mentioned throughout this report.

Overall the number of pupils receiving instrumental music lessons with Scottish local authority led services has remained largely consistent over the past 6 years, although for the second consecutive year pupil numbers dropped in 2018/19. In total, approximately 57,496 pupils received lessons and at least 17,527 pupils also participated in additional activities run by these services.

These services strive to provide opportunities for as many young people as possible, for example by organising numerous auxiliary activities such as bands, ensembles, orchestras, concerts and residential courses. Despite this, many instrumental music services are limited by resource and teaching capacity and are unable to provide lessons for all interested pupils. A decrease in instructor numbers employed by these services is a major contributing factor towards this trend. These figures will be continually monitored to consider how this impacts on tuition and participation rates.

The negative correlation between pupil numbers (as a proportion of the school roll) and the cost of tuition indicates the growing importance of fees in allowing participation across Scotland. However, this relationship only accounts for a small proportion of the differentiation between local authorities, and so it is essential to consider additional factors influencing participation across Scotland. Examples of these factors are resources, teaching capacity, class sizes, selection procedures, geographic spread, and availability of instruments, as well as other regional differences. Some of these, such as falling instructor numbers, selection procedures and many more are covered in this survey. The survey and report highlight the importance of continually monitoring the cost of tuition fees and available concessions annually to ensure equity of access, particularly given the introduction of fees and increasing fees in several local authorities, and the subsequent decline in pupil numbers in 2018/19. Survey results highlight that instrumental music services in Scotland are continually improving annually in terms of monitoring standards, undertaking reviews, and ensuring parent contact time. Moreover, communication between services has been observed to improve year on year, resulting in improved information sharing and learning best practice from other instrumental music services. This survey and report support instrumental music services across Scotland. It enables them to compare provision in other local authority areas, share best practice and innovation whilst monitoring components such as pupil and teacher numbers.



Improvement Service

iHub

Quarrywood Court

Livingston

EH54 6AX

T. 01506 282012

E. info@improvementservice.org.uk

W. www.improvementservice.org.uk

is.
improvement service