



# Whole Class Ensemble Tuition and Support for Music Progression



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## The Programme

Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) gives all children and young people an experience of learning to play a musical instrument and exploring music-making as a whole class. This is a fantastic opportunity to discover and develop new interests, talents and skills. For many children this may be their first opportunity to try a musical instrument.

WCET fulfils all aspects of the National Curriculum. Summative assessment of all pupils is provided, identifying those who may wish to continue learning an instrument and playing in a group. To this end, the WCET programme works closely with the Approved Tutor scheme and York Music Centre.

The National Plan for Music Education recommends that - "...every child should have the opportunity to play a musical instrument....."

*"You can express your feelings"*

*Y5 pupil*



*"It just makes you love learning"*

*Y4 pupil*

## The Benefits

Playing a musical instrument and singing have huge musical benefits and there is strong evidence that this supports the development of:

**team work - concentration - self confidence -  
mental health - perseverance - problem solving -  
communication and language - listening - appraising**

Over time, the WCET programme benefits schools by:

- giving every child the opportunity to try an instrument
- giving those children, who so wish, the opportunity to continue learning an instrument and playing in groups by working closely with Approved Tutors and York Music Centre

*"It helps with physical and social development"*

*primary headteacher*

## Instruments

Instruments are supplied for every child in a class (including the teacher) as part of the programme. These include:

violins, flutes, clarinets, recorders, tin whistles, trumpets, trombones, ukuleles, guitars, glockenspiels, African drums, Samba and 'junk' percussion.

String instruments can be supplied in appropriate  $\frac{3}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  sizes.

*“Music is inside you and it can be shared”*

*WCET tutor*



*“It makes me feel confident”*

*Y4 pupil*

## Continuation and Progression

Many pupils wish to continue playing an instrument after their initial experiences and to take more formal lessons in small groups or individually. The WCET programme works closely with Approved Tutors to ensure that pupils, schools and parents find an appropriate progression path.

For those that wish to continue playing in larger groups, the WCET programme links with First Access ensembles at York Music Centre – membership is free of charge for any pupil participating in the WCET programme.

York Arts Education also offers very low cost instrument hire and instrumental/vocal tuition\*.

*\*Further remissions are available (including free tuition, free instrument hire and free membership to all groups at York Music Centre) for families on low income.*

*“Growing up to love music”*

*Y5 pupil*



[www.yorkartseducation.org.uk](http://www.yorkartseducation.org.uk)

## WCET Package for Schools

- A qualified, experienced instrumental tutor
- Quality instruments for a whole class including the class teacher
- Insurance, repair and replacement for any instrument damaged (whilst on school premises)
- Free CPD sessions for class teachers
- Free access for WCET pupils to attend York Music Centre 'first access' groups. See the website for more details. [www.yorkartseducation.org.uk](http://www.yorkartseducation.org.uk)
- Support with small group and individual tuition for those who wish to continue
- Free membership to the UK Association for Music Education (Music Mark) [www.musicmark.org.uk](http://www.musicmark.org.uk)
- Access to Fun Days
- Support for Arts Award Discover and Explore [www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk)

*“Children say it’s their favourite day of the week”*

*WCET tutor*



## WCET Guidelines and Costs for Schools

One 'unit' of WCET is defined as:

1 tutor for 1 hour per week for 11 weeks (i.e. one term).

One unit is provided annually to all primary schools **FREE**.

Further units may be purchased at the cost of £400 – this may be for another class or year group, or to extend the programme beyond a single term.

All schools and their pupils' needs are different so there is no standard format for the WCET programme.

Bespoke requirements can be discussed with individual schools.

For the programme to have maximum impact it is recommended that:

- Schools support the programme on a rolling annual basis
- Class teachers and/or TAs learn alongside the children
- Each school agrees to work closely with the WCET tutor to support continuation and progression both within and beyond the school

If schools can demonstrate they have the in house expertise to deliver the programme themselves, York Arts Education will support this with the **FREE** loan of instruments, subject to availability.

## Additional Support for Schools

Our York Arts Education team is available to provide support for a range of other activities such as leading an ensemble at lunchtimes or after school.

Costs are the same as for leading the WCET programme:

1 hour per week for 11 weeks = £400

This cost includes all sheet music/music stands—but does not include instruments.

*“Not just learning music but developing their discipline skills, their listening skills”* *WCET tutor and ensemble leader*



*“It makes me feel happy and free”*

*Y4 pupil*

## Further Information

If you would like to discuss the Whole Class Ensemble Tuition programme including additional support and how this can be tailored to your school's needs, please contact me:

email: [tim.brooks@yorkartseducation.org.uk](mailto:tim.brooks@yorkartseducation.org.uk)

Tel: 01904 293245

For more information about the WCET programme and to see the promotional film click [HERE](#)

[www.yorkartseducation.org.uk](http://www.yorkartseducation.org.uk)

*“I would whole-heartedly recommend schools trying Whole Class Ensemble Tuition”* *Primary music coordinator*



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