



*Every child  
a musician*

## MUSIC ON SEA NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2025

Welcome to the Music on Sea (MOS) newsletter! This update is shared at the end of each month, during term time. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out via [musiconsea@southend.gov.uk](mailto:musiconsea@southend.gov.uk).

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find:

- A welcome from Kitt
- Safeguarding
- Key updates
- Projects and performance opportunities
- Key stakeholder update, including the Greater Essex Music Hub (GEMH)
- Key contacts

### A WELCOME FROM KITT

This month has been an inspiring one for music in Southend, with our exciting partnership work alongside The Jazz Centre UK and Rhythm Connections bringing the joy of improvisation and live jazz into schools across the city. Hundreds of children and young people are already benefitting from the "Let's Improvise" project, and we are thrilled to see so much creativity and enthusiasm emerging. At the same time, we are looking ahead to the launch of our new Southend Music Centre, which will expand opportunities for children and young people to learn, play, and perform together in the community.

I am also delighted by the overwhelming response to Southend Makes Music 2026 – thank you to all the schools who have applied to take part in the city's largest celebration of youth musical talent. Further details of next steps, including confirmation of performance slots and rehearsal arrangements, are outlined later in this newsletter.

I have really enjoyed beginning to visit schools and meet with music leads, and I look forward to meeting many more of you soon as we explore how we can support music in your school. Thank you for your continued support and engagement,

Kitt Garner – Lead Officer for the Music Service

## CPD OPPORTUNITY

As part of their role as a Lead School, Hamstel Junior School will host a free development opportunity for primary music leads about supporting the delivery of high-quality group music making in your school. This will be taking place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 between 12:30-15:30. The session will be led by Sarah Goldsmith (GEM), Alex Murphy (Hamstel) and Kristian Parkes (Charanga). To book a place, please email [musiconsea@southend.gov.uk](mailto:musiconsea@southend.gov.uk)

## SAFEGUARDING

A letter of assurance is sent to all schools and settings about compliance to vetting and checks for all Music on Sea staff (tutors and officers). For MOS this was sent on behalf of Amanda Champ. The Safeguarding Policy for MOS can be found here: [Greater Essex Music Hub Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy](#)

## KEY UPDATES

### **New Provision and a Change for Rock School in January 2026**

First session: **12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Southend High School for Boys, 16:30-18:30** ([additional dates available on our website](#)). **Free for the first half term**, £15 for the second half term and £30 each term from thereon (10 sessions per term). **Financial assistance is available** to those eligible.

Music on Sea's long standing **Rock School** ensemble will take on a new shape as part of **Southend Music Centre**. This is an exciting, fresh opportunity for young learners in partnership with our lead secondary school, **Southend High School for Boys**. This new after-school initiative will offer a space for young musicians to grow, connect and create.

The change of venue will move **Rock School** back to a school setting in the heart of our city. **Southend Music Centre** will also offer **one-to-one, small group, and ensemble sessions**. Pupils will have the opportunity to join a rock and pop band with like-minded musicians or take lessons to further their skills on a brass or stringed instrument. This provision will complement and build upon the success of **Southend Academy of Music**, offering a progression pathway for learners who are developing confidence and skill in their playing.

To learn more about Southend Music Centre, please [visit our website](#). To book sessions for your child, please [visit our website](#) or use the following link to register: <https://www.southend.gov.uk/xfp/form/34>

### **Financial Assistance**

MOS offers **financial support** to ensure every child and young person can access music opportunities. Families on low incomes, pupils receiving Free School Meals, Looked After Children, and young carers qualify for assistance, as laid out below:

- **Instruments**  
Hire instruments for eligible families at half price (£15) and Looked After Children at no charge. Discounts can be requested via the instrument hire form.
- **Ensembles**  
Free membership for pupils on Free School Meals, young carers, and Southend Advantage Card Category C holders. New members can enjoy a free trial session. Apply through the ensemble membership form.
- **HMRC's Assisted Instrument Purchase scheme (AIPs)**  
Save VAT on instrument purchases for pupils in full-time education who are eligible, such as receiving lessons or being part of an ensemble. Approval must be granted via the application process before purchase.
- **Tuition**  
Children Looked After or Previously Looked After can access free in-school lessons through Music on Sea tutors. Families should apply via their school.

For full details and application forms, [visit the financial assistance page on our website](#).

### **Spring Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET) for Schools - Bookings**

WCET bookings are by reaching out to MOS on [musiconseasouthend.gov.uk](mailto:musiconseasouthend.gov.uk) and telling us what you require. Benefits of booking via MOS are outlined below, please note that we are unable to accept bookings direct via a tutor:

- One funded term of lessons for one year group at Key Stage 2 (limited availability and schools without music specialist teachers will be prioritised)
- Two terms of lessons and Music on Sea will fund a further term, meaning pupils get a year of instrumental learning for £375 per class
- Resources to support teaching and instruments for hire to schools (if schools use their own music specialist)
- Workshops and events to provide performance opportunities for young musicians

Please [complete this form to book your sessions](#) for WCET in spring 25/26 and direct any questions to [musiconseasouthend.gov.uk](mailto:musiconseasouthend.gov.uk).

### **Key Reminders about One-to-One Tuition Bookings for Schools**

Delivery commitment is via the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) between MOS and the school following this process:

1. **Book:** Schools contact [musiconseasouthend.gov.uk](mailto:musiconseasouthend.gov.uk) emailing the details of new pupils or classes required.
2. **Check:** Tutors confirms all hours that they will take on - directly with the school.
3. **Confirm:** SLAs issued to the school. Schools confirm with MOS that this is correct and share details of any pupils who receive financial assistance.
4. **Invoice:** Invoice sent to the school for the term, as laid out in the SLA.

The MOS 25/26 booklet lays out the provision on offer. Music leads are to familiarise with [booking terms and conditions](#).

## Instruments

MOS have a variety of musical instruments that can be hired by individuals and schools. We also have access to wider instruments via the Greater Essex Music Hub. **We are eager to identify gaps in provision** and to make sure that our resourcing meets your needs. Please complete a short survey to provide your views:

- [Primary Schools](#)
- [Secondary Schools](#)
- [SEND Settings](#)

In line with funding requirements, instruments can no longer be provided to schools at no charge.

## PROJECT AND PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

### Southend Makes Music (SMM) 2026

Thank you for inundating us with booking requests for SMM 2026 – **we are proud about the level of engagement shown across our settings to allow for your children to take part in the largest celebration of musical youth talent in Southend-on-Sea!** The application period has now ended.

On **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December**, you will receive an email confirming your performance date and a request for important performance information, which must be submitted by **19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**. This will include but not be limited to:

- Details of which songs you will be performing
- What equipment you will require (or you will supply)
- Information that you'd like entered into the programme/compere's script

**If you wish to be considered for the waiting list so your school can potentially engage in SMM, please contact us asap** via [musiconsea@southend.gov.uk](mailto:musiconsea@southend.gov.uk).

## KEY STAKEHOLDER INCLUDING GEMH UPDATES

This can be found here: [Home - Greater Essex Music Hub](#)

## KEY CONTACTS

Your first point of contact is **Ted Groves** at [musiconsea@southend.gov.uk](mailto:musiconsea@southend.gov.uk)

Kitt Garner	Music Service Lead Officer & <b>Designated Safeguarding Lead</b>
Edward (Ted) Groves	Music Service Support Officer
Julie Hollingsworth	Senior Advisor – manager for the service
Amanda Champ	Head of Performance, Partnerships & Safeguarding

## Who To Contact If I Have A Question?

I have a safeguarding concern/disclosure	Kitt Garner, DSL / <a href="mailto:kittgarner@southend.gov.uk">kittgarner@southend.gov.uk</a>
I'd like to request music provision	Ted Groves / <a href="mailto:musiconseasouthend@southend.gov.uk">musiconseasouthend@southend.gov.uk</a>
I have a challenge with a tutor	Kitt Garner, DSL / <a href="mailto:kittgarner@southend.gov.uk">kittgarner@southend.gov.uk</a>
I have a challenge with a provider/partner	Kitt Garner, DSL / <a href="mailto:kittgarner@southend.gov.uk">kittgarner@southend.gov.uk</a>
I'd like to discuss a sensitive matter	Kitt Garner, DSL / <a href="mailto:kittgarner@southend.gov.uk">kittgarner@southend.gov.uk</a>
I have a query about an SLA/agreement	Ted Groves / <a href="mailto:musiconseasouthend@southend.gov.uk">musiconseasouthend@southend.gov.uk</a>

## Safeguarding Contacts

DBS Update Service: 0300 020 0190 / [customerservices@db.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@db.gov.uk)

MASH+ Children's Social Care, Southend-on-Sea City Council: 01702 215007 or 0345 606 1212 (out of hours for urgent referrals) / [fct@southend.gov.uk](mailto:fct@southend.gov.uk)

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer): Allison Francis 01702 534539 / [allisonfrancis@southend.gov.uk](mailto:allisonfrancis@southend.gov.uk)

Safeguarding Advisor: Sharon Langston 01702 534591 / [safeguardingforchildren@southend.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingforchildren@southend.gov.uk)