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MUSIC ON SEA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION

Our monthly Music update is sent out at the end of each month, during term time. If you have any questions, please contact: musiconsea@southend.gov.uk

In this newsletter you will find:

- Key Updates from Music on Sea (MOS)
- Safeguarding Update
- Projects and performance opportunities
- Key stakeholder update, including the Greater Essex Music Hub
- Contacts

Thank you for your on-going support.

MUSIC ON SEA KEY UPDATES

A Message from Kitt Garner, Lead Officer for Music on Sea

I am pleased to join Music On Sea as the Lead Officer to take the music service forward in the new academic year. I am looking forward to meeting school leaders, music leads and partners, developing the support and provision across Southend in line with the Local Plan for Music Education. I will work closely with our partners across the Greater Essex Music Hub (GEMH) to support collaboration across Southend, Essex and Thurrock, ensuring our work aligns with the broader goals of music education.

A little about me – I'm a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and an experienced Head of Faculty/Subject Leader, joining Music on Sea from a secondary school in Suffolk as an Assistant Headteacher, responsible for curriculum, timetabling and trainee/early career teachers. I will use my skills and experiences, as well as my great passion for music, to continue to improve music outcomes across our city.

Kitt Garner

Arts Council England Data Return

As a local Hub for music, we have a responsibility to report data to Arts Council England. We need your support with this. Please take 3 minutes to share information about the music offer in your school by completing the survey that can be found here: [Arts Council Data Return 24-25](#). Please submit a return even if you do not have a music provision in-school.



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Music provision process

Our new Music on Sea booklet, lays out the provision on offer from Music on Sea this year.

Before the summer break, we shared our new [booking terms and conditions](#) for music lessons 2025-26. It is important that music leads take the time to familiarise with this information.

The booking process continues to be via the service to school Service Level Agreements (SLAs):

Book: Schools to contact musiconseasouthend@southend.gov.uk telling us the details of new students or classes required. [For Whole Class Ensemble Tuition, please complete this form.](#)

Check: Tutors will confirm the hours they are teaching directly with you.

Confirm: SLAs will be issued to schools. School to confirm to MOS this is correct and share details of any pupils who receive financial assistance.

Invoice: MOS will send to schools their invoice for the term for the costs agreed in the SLA.

Whole Class Instrumental Tuition

Our key priorities are to:

- ensure that all pupils in Southend primary schools have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument
- experience the joy of making music with others
- continue to access instrumental learning as they transition into secondary and further education.

Learning a musical instrument opens new worlds of possibilities and allows pupils to develop resilience and practise growth mindset; it is not easy to perfect new skills!

To access our offer schools should [complete this form to book your sessions](#) for:

- Funded term of lessons for 1 year group at KS2 (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
- Resource to support teaching and instruments for hire to schools (if you use your own music specialist)
- workshops and events to provide performance opportunities for young musicians



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Year 7 Orchestrate Programme

This year, a key target for Southend is to increase the number of pupils learning to play an orchestra instrument at secondary school age. From January 2026, we will be offering secondary schools in the city the opportunity to apply to be part of this new offer:

- 12 x Y7 students in each setting to have the opportunity to receive free tuition on an orchestral instrument.
- Pupils will be taught in groups of three, receiving a weekly 30-minute lesson for the duration of the Spring and Summer Terms.
- This provision will also include free instrumental hire.
- From Term 2 – Music on Sea will additionally look to provide an in-school ensemble opportunity for these students, again – free of charge.

Please contact musiconsea@southend.gov.uk for more information.

Instrument Hire

Music on Sea 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.

[Individuals can hire instruments](#) for their 1-1, small group and community lessons and we can hire class sets of instruments or specific instruments to schools for curriculum and co-curricular activities.

In line with our ACE agreement/terms and conditions, we are no longer able to offer instruments to schools free of charge. For more information contact musiconsea@southend.gov.uk

Gaps in Instrument Provision

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](#)

SAFEGUARDING

All schools and settings have been sent a letter of assurance for checks and vetting (DBS) from Amanda Champ, and which covers Music on Sea.

Our music tutor workforce adheres to and are expected to follow school-based protocols when on site, as well as Hub expectations which can be found here:

→ [Greater Essex Music Hub Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy](#)



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PROJECT AND PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Let's Improvise – fully funded project opportunity for KS1 and 2 – Final few places left!

Music On Sea has been working with The Jazz Centre UK and Rhythm Connections to develop the 'Let's Improvise' project for primary schools across the city. It is planned to run until the end of March 2026, covering the first two terms of the current school year. If successful, it is hoped to extend it into secondary education.

The Jazz Centre's partners in this endeavour are Music on Sea Music Service and Rhythm Connections. Music on Sea is a key partner in the Greater Essex Music Hub, a partnership of organisations that works to ensure children and young people from all backgrounds have access to high quality music education. Rhythm Connections has been providing music workshops in primary and secondary schools for over twenty years.

Gareth Evans, who is leading the project for the Jazz Centre, describes it as "very exciting." He says, "we're particularly delighted to be working alongside Music on Sea and Rhythm Connections to deliver this specially designed series of music workshops in Southend's primary schools." The "*Let's Improvise*" project will help bring new learning to children and enable the Jazz Centre to strengthen its engagement with the local community, reckons Evans.

As a unique British body, with a mission to preserve, promote and celebrate jazz music, the Jazz Centre is ideally positioned to undertake its role in the project, he says. "We very much hope that, with the enthusiastic support of our partners, we will be able to expand the project across Essex in the near future and perhaps nationally in the years ahead."

The roots of the project go back to 2023 when funding from a local charitable foundation made it possible for TJCUK to offer music workshops in three local schools. They were followed up with an event at the Centre's home at the Beecroft Gallery that brought children and their parents together for a combined creative experience. This proved very successful. Some 1200 children took part in the school workshops and the positive feedback encouraged the expansion of this model to primary schools across the City.

The aim of the "*Let's Improvise*" project is to engage children and their parents in music-making that is less familiar to them. Improvisation is a fundamental characteristic of jazz music and TJCUK wants children and their parents to experience and enjoy the spontaneous creativity it brings. This gels perfectly with Music on Sea's commitment to supporting and providing high quality musical opportunities to children and young people across Southend. Its vision is that all children and young people should have the opportunity to learn to sing, play an instrument and create music together, as well as progress their musical interests and talent, both in and outside of school. The keys to this, MoS believes, are communication, participation, opportunity, excellence, accessibility, collaboration and enjoyment.

Meantime, Rhythm Connections, the third partner in the project, has been providing music workshops in primary and secondary schools for over twenty years. It offers one day events but also full music provision with weekly classes, monitored progression and online support. Assistance in teaching music theory and reading musical notation is also given. While the



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focus is on face-to-face teaching, they also offer online support and they have a wealth of material to assist non-musical teachers in delivering music in the classroom.

Marc Cecil of Rhythm Connections said “We are thrilled to have the opportunity to design a program around improvised music. With three distinct sessions, each offering a unique format, we can create more of a musical journey than a single workshop allows. I’m especially looking forward to seeing children engage directly with professional jazz musicians.”

Workshops will be delivered in three forms. *Jazz Jump Off* will present an introduction to improvisation to a large group of children alongside a small group of jazz musicians. *Jazz Jam* will deliver a mixed percussion half day session to smaller groups of children, going into more depth about developing skills for improvisation. Finally, *Jazz Journey* will deliver a full day at TJCUC, involving a performance to parents. It will also include African drumming (the roots of improvisation) and teaching children to lead the audience in improvised music.

We are now live for bookings for autumn 2025 or spring 2026.

Please read through the key information sheet to see full details and [to sign up via a short form.](#)

Southend Makes Music Sign Up

Southend Makes Music is the week before February half term: Monday 9th February, until Friday 13th February. Please pencil these dates in your diary and look out for booking information coming your way soon. We need all schools to complete the booking as soon as possible – to ensure that we can meet the uptake by all schools, meet your preferences and maximise our numbers of engagement.

KEY STAKEHOLDER UPDATES

Greater Essex Music Hub – Lead Schools

There are nine lead schools for 2025 – 2026, following many strong applications of interest and following a rigorous recruitment process:

- **Hamstel Junior School**
- **Southend High School for Boys**
- Beehive Lane Primary
- Buttsbury Primary School
- The Gilbert School
- Saffron Walden County High School
- Stambridge Primary School



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- Thames Park Secondary School
- Woodside Academy

Each school has a different remit to support education settings across Greater Essex, and you can [learn more about the schools and read a case study about their work on our dedicated webpage](#). We look forward to working in partnership with these schools and will be sharing more details about each school in our future newsletters.

CONTACTS

Your first point of contact is **Ted Groves** at musiconsea@southend.gov.uk

Kitt Garner	Music Service Lead Officer & Designated Safeguarding Lead
Edward (Ted) Groves	Music Service Support Officer
Julie Hollingsworth	Senior Advisor
Amanda Champ	Head of Performance, Partnerships & Safeguarding

Who To Contact If I Have A Question?

Scenario	Contact
Safeguarding concern	Kitt Garner, DSL, KittGarner@southend.gov.uk .
Request for additional music provision	Ted Groves, via musiconsea@southend.gov.uk
Challenge with a tutor	The tutor, then Kitt Garner on KittGarner@southend.gov.uk if unresolved
Challenge with a provider/partner	The provider/partner, then Kitt Garner on KittGarner@southend.gov.uk if unresolved
Change in music offer	Ted Groves, via musiconsea@southend.gov.uk
Sensitive matter	Kitt Garner via KittGarner@southend.gov.uk .
SLA or agreement query	Ted Groves, via musiconsea@southend.gov.uk
SLN login	Bianca Prelipceanu, via servicesforschools@southend.gov.uk

Further Safeguarding Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Kitt Garner, Lead Officer for Music on Sea on behalf of Southend City Council kittgarner@southend.gov.uk

DBS Update Service: 0300 020 0190 customerservices@dbs.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

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

Safeguarding Advisor: Sharon Langston 01702 534591
safeguardingforchildren@southend.gov.uk