South East London Music Hub

Charging & Remissions Policy

The South East London Music Hub (SELMH) consortium is committed to ensuring that all children and young people, regardless of their socioeconomic background, have equitable access to high-quality music education. This unified policy is aligned with the National Plan for Music Education 2022, which emphasises the importance of ensuring that all children and young people receive a broad and ambitious music education, fostering creativity, talent, and a lifelong love of music. The National Plan sets out key aims for music education, including:

- Ensuring all children have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and to progress to the next level of excellence if desired.
- Facilitating access to singing and musical ensembles, enabling collaborative musical experiences.
- Promoting diversity and inclusion in music education to remove barriers for underrepresented groups.
- Strengthening partnerships between schools, music hubs, and the wider community.

This policy aims consolidates the practices of the six participating music services, aligning charging, remission, and subsidy frameworks while accommodating local variations where necessary. It reflects SELMH commitment to the strategic functions outlined in the National Plan, ensuring that every child has access to high-quality musical opportunities within an inclusive and sustainable framework

General Principles

- SELMH believes music education is a fundamental right for all children.
- Fees are subsidised across all services to reduce financial barriers.
- Additional support is provided for low-income families, children in care, and those facing exceptional circumstances.
- The policy promotes consistency while allowing flexibility to address unique community needs.

Charging Structure

Instrumental Lessons and Ensembles

- Fees are tiered based on lesson type (e.g., individual, paired, small group):
- Individual lessons: £150–£450 per term depending on duration.
- Group lessons: £75–£225 per term.
- Ensembles: £65–£145 per term.
- Discounts apply for siblings and multiple activities (see Section 4).

Instrument Hire

- Instruments are available for hire at subsidised rates:
- Free for children on Free School Meals or Looked After Children.
- Standard fees range from £20–£56 per term, depending on instrument type.
- Whole-class sets: Free for specific school programs or £10–£150 per term otherwise.

School Provision Charges
- Whole-Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET): Subsidised or free for participating schools.
- School-specific charges for curriculum support, workshops, and CPD (Continuing Professional Development): £46–£50 per hour.

Remissions Policy
Families may qualify for reduced fees (up to 100% remission) under these conditions:

- Receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) or Ever 6 FSM.
- Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, or Universal Credit (income below £16,190).
- Looked After Children or Post-Looked After Children.
- Service Children or those eligible under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

Application Process
- Families must complete a remission application form, providing relevant evidence (e.g., income proof, benefit letters).
- Applications are reviewed confidentially, and decisions are communicated promptly.

Sibling and Multi-Program Discounts
- Second sibling: 25% discount.
- Additional activities: 10% discount per program.
- Discounts cannot be combined; the highest applicable discount is applied.

Subsidy Frameworks

Standard Subsidies
- Activities are subsidised through Arts Council England and local government funding.
- Additional contributions from Rotary Clubs, local charities, and Friends of SELMH groups provide further financial support.

Bursary Schemes
- Young Musician's Bursary: Covers up to 90% of costs for families earning below £25,000 per annum.
- London Music Fund and similar partnerships offer full tuition scholarships to select students.

Special Cases
- Exceptional financial hardship: Full or partial remission at the discretion of SELMH management.
- Schools are encouraged to use Pupil Premium to support additional remissions.

Debt and Recovery Policy
- Families with outstanding fees may face suspension of services until payments are cleared.
- SELMH will work with families to establish manageable payment plans before escalating to debt recovery procedures.

Monitoring and Review

- Fees and policies will be reviewed annually, with adjustments aligned to inflation and operational costs.
- Feedback from families, schools, and community stakeholders will inform policy updates.

Additional Information

- Contact your local SELMH representative for bespoke consultation or more details on subsidies and remissions. Click on the links below for application forms, policy document and updates.

Part of London South East Academies Trust
BEXLEY MUSIC

BYMT
BROMLEY YOUTH MUSIC TRUST

Lewisham music

LMS
Lambeth Music Service

ROYAL GREENWICH
Music Service

SOUTHWARK MUSIC

This policy has been overseen by the SELMH Executive and Directors and reflects the collective commitment of SELMH partners to foster an inclusive musical community, enabling every child to experience the joy and benefits of music education.