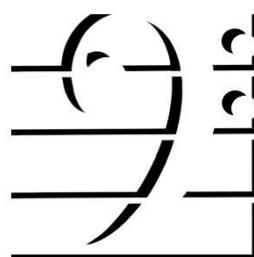


Education and Children's Services

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Instrumental Music Service



Report
Session 2022 – 2023



Vision, Values and Aims

The Instrumental Music Service is committed to working together with schools and communities to secure continuous improvement in outcomes for children and young people through music opportunities.

Our ambition is to offer the best opportunities for as many people as possible to benefit from our Service.

We uphold the Education and Children's Services values of Integrity, Equity and Empowerment. The quality of our service is important to us which will be further developed through our commitment to and engagement with pupils and parents.

We aim to continuously develop to ensure we maintain an efficient and modern service which maximises digital technology. This includes exploring new ways of working to offer free instrumental music tuition in Scotland including working in partnership with communities, schools, organisations and individuals.

We aim to provide opportunities for pupils and the wider community to experience a broad range of music-making.

Ethos

Aberdeenshire Instrumental Music Service intends to work together with all stakeholders, to provide a modern teaching environment that is:

- Flexible
- Adaptable
- Supportive
- Pupil centred
- Inclusive
- Enjoyable
- Confidence building

Instrumental Music Service Values Framework



Teaching Learner centered, creating a flexible approach using a variety of tools suitable to learning styles.

Team Continue to build momentum and work together Sharing communication and considering collaborative working projects.

Professional Learning Sharing good practice, ideas and solutions. Access and attend professional learning opportunities.

Accreditation and Achievement Implement and use a variety of tools and accreditation/achievement recordings to improve our offer.

Responsibilities and expectations Inclusive and accessible for all learners. Learning experiences delivered to a high standard with purpose and rationale.

Wider Skills Improve learners' confidence through music delivery. Improve and develop social and core skills.

Technology Using technology and building on skills that further support/enhance learning.

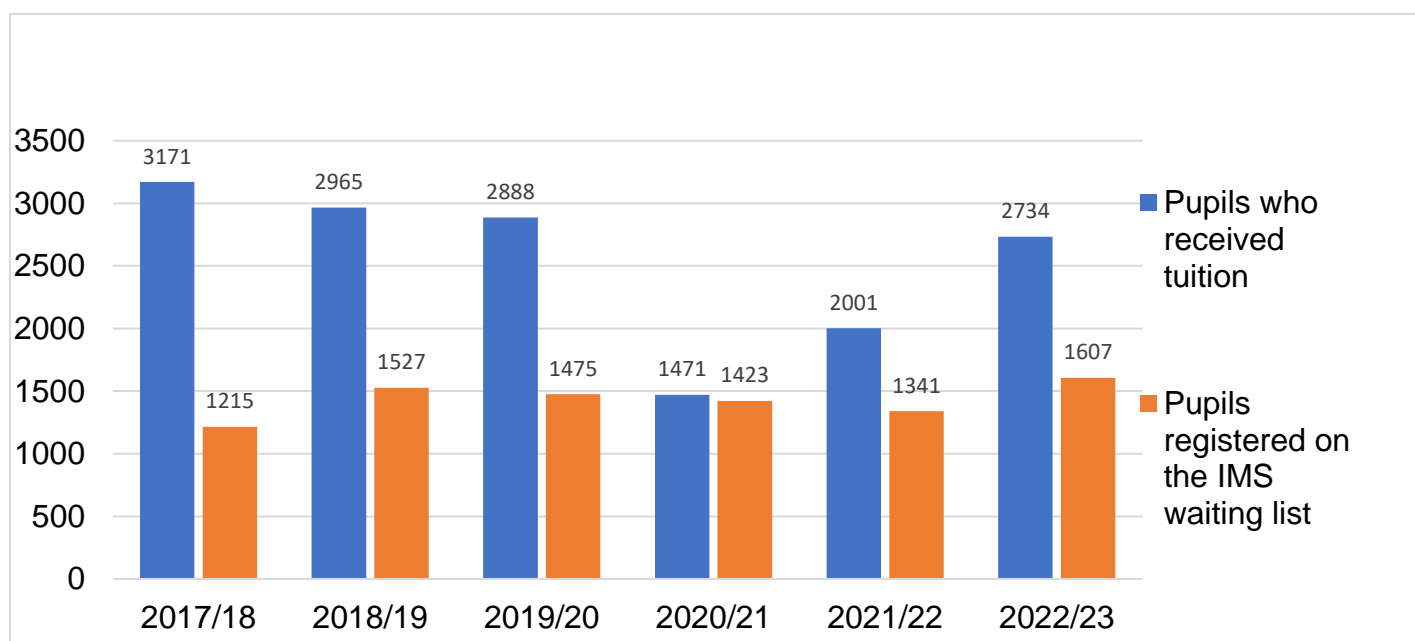
The Instrumental Music Service

Core Service

The Instrumental Music Service (IMS) operates in all 17 Community School Networks across Aberdeenshire, providing group and individual lessons.

The Service continued working on recovery following the pandemic through recruitment drives led by instructors, offers of new ways of working and more whole class projects. This resulted in significant increase in pupils accessing tuition in 2023/23 compared with the previous year. The numbers accessing tuition were only 5.6% lower than pre-pandemic levels. A further increase in pupils accessing tuition is anticipated for the next academic year as further recovery from Covid 19 pandemic continues. Whilst waiting lists increased by 11.4% since 2020 but, the number of pupils accessing tuition increased by 85.8% in the same period. The instrumental Music Service is currently reviewing the way in which registration works to reduce waiting list. An example of this is the current option for parents to register children for multiple disciplines.

The chart below shows the number of pupils who accessed tuition between 2017/18 -2022/23. It also shows the number of pupils that were on a waiting list during the same period.



The table below shows the number of pupils who accessed tuition between 2017/18 -2022/23. It also shows the number of pupils that were on a waiting list during the same period.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Pupils who received tuition	3171	2965	2888	1471	2001	2734
Pupils registered on the IMS waiting list	1215	1527	1475	1423	1341	1607

The table below shows comparative numbers of pupils that accessed tuition from 2016 to 21/22 in 6 other Local Authorities. At the time of writing the 2022-23 Improvement Service Report has not been published.

Local Authority	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Aberdeen City	3371	3300	1700	2224	1431	1821
Aberdeenshire	3060	3171	2965	2888	1636	2001
Angus	932	954	950	1052	696	920
Edinburgh	5089	5084	5089	5071	3245	4116
Highland	3100	2900	3600	3700	2530	4050
Moray	815	800	594	643	536	815
North Lanarkshire	3409	2941	2646	2437	1048	1809

The table below shows the total FTE for the following 6 other Local Authorities in 2020-21.

At the time of writing the 2022-23 Improvement Service Report has not been published.

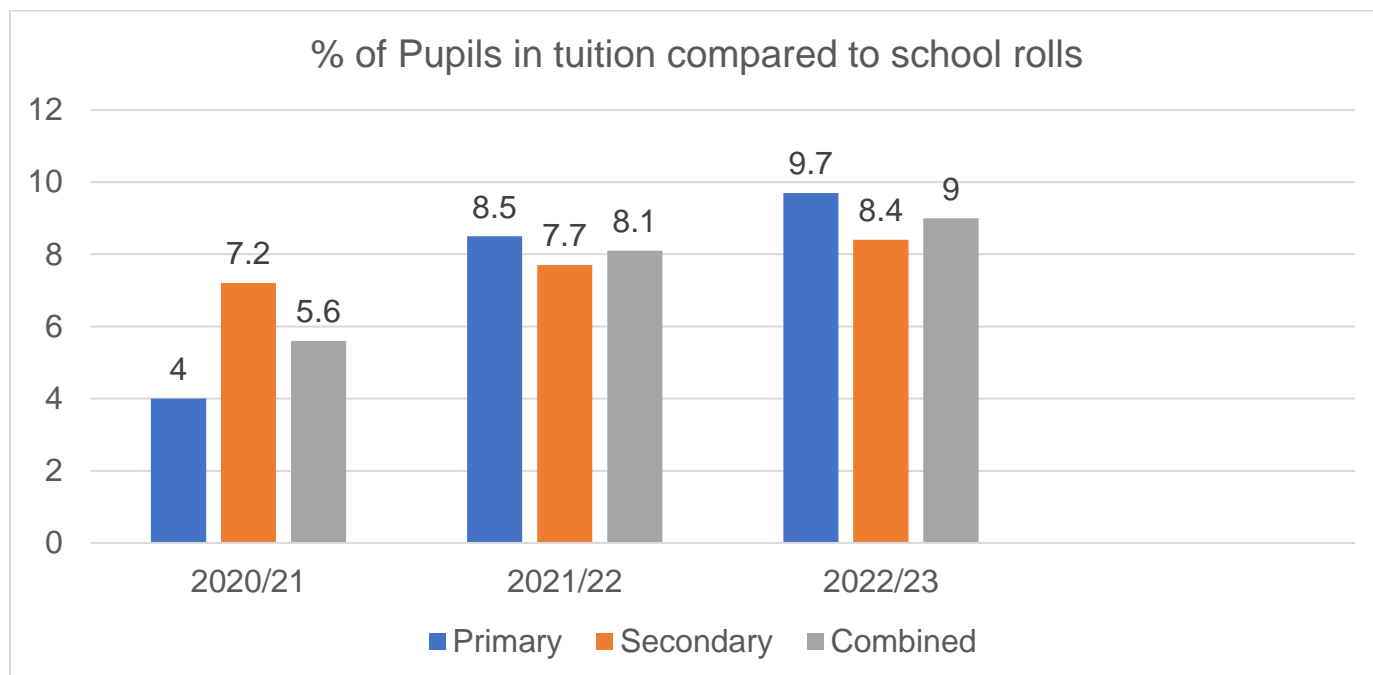
Local Authority	Full Time Equivalent	Average number of pupils per instructor
Aberdeen City	30.3	60
Aberdeenshire	32	62.5
Angus	13.4	68.6
Edinburgh	55.1	74.7
Highland	44.7	90.6
Moray	8.8	92.6
North Lanarkshire	35.7	50.6

In 2022-23 the number of pupils accessing music tuition in Aberdeenshire was 2734 with the average number of pupils per instructor increasing to 86.

Below is a table showing Aberdeenshire Music Service pupil numbers by discipline and geographic area.

Area	North	Central	South	Total
Bagpipes	30	81	0	111
Brass	59	139	130	328
Guitar	48	72	121	241
Lower Strings	75	91	112	278
Percussion	35	75	96	206
Piano/ keyboard	48	63	121	232
Pipe Band Drum	3	32	0	35
Upper Strings	215	310	314	839
Woodwind	147	141	176	464
Total	660	1004	1070	2734

The chart below shows the numbers of pupils in Primary and Secondary schools receiving tuition from 2020 – 2023 and the respective and combined percentages of the school roll for eligible pupils.



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Percentage of pupils in tuition compared to school rolls	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Primary	4	8.5	9.7
Secondary	7.2	7.7	8.4
Combined	5.6	8.1	9

Instructors

In 2022/2023 there were 39 instrumental instructors with the full time equivalent (FTE) of 31.68. This included a Supply Instructor FTE 0.2 and temporary fixed term contracts of 0.48 FTE Instrumental instruction was offered in 9 disciplines.

The table below shows the distribution of Full Time Equivalent across each discipline.

Discipline	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Woodwind	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Brass	5.4	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Percussion	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Piano/ Keyboard	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.2	2.88
Guitar	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

Violin/ Viola	10.94	10.14	10.54	10.14	9.2	8.0
Cello/ Double Bass	4.2	3.8	3.8	4	3.8	3.4
Bagpipes*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pipe Band Drumming*	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4



Scottish Young Musician Solo Performer Competition 2023

Scottish Young Musicians Solo Performer of the Year is a nationwide competition to discover the brightest musical talent in Scotland, open to every school student in Scotland who sings or plays an instrument.

2023 was the competition's 2nd year and Aberdeenshire's regional competition took place on Sunday 23rd April, in Inverurie Town Hall. Last year Aberdeenshire Instrumental Music Service held the regional event online. This year saw the first live regional event that the Service has organised.

Pauline Black FRSA FHEA, Head of Music Engagement and Senior Lecturer, University of Aberdeen was invited to be the adjudicator for the competition. The official accompanist for the day was Instrumental Music Service Piano Instructor, Blair Cargill

There were 18 competitors from across Aberdeenshire. The winner and two runners up were announced at the end of the competition which culminated in a presentation ceremony.

- Winner, Magnus Shanks, Piano
- Runner up, Charlotte Slater, Violin
- Runner up, Isla Rippiner, Flute

Winner of the Regional Competition, Magnus Shanks performed at the National Scottish Young Musicians Solo Performer of the year Final, which took place at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow on 21st May and competed with some of the best young musicians in Scotland, for a panel of judges with an international reputation.

Picture: Magnus Shanks performing at the SYM Final at the Royal Conservatoire Scotland



The Scottish Young Musicians competitions are a great opportunity to develop skills, get performance experience, grow in confidence, and meet other young people who are passionate about music.



Youth Music Initiative (YMI)

In 2003, the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) was launched to put music at the heart of children and young people's lives and learning. It currently operates with an annual budget of £8 million and supports all musical genres, age groups and teaching methods.

In 2022-23 the Instrumental Music Service worked in partnership with Live Life Aberdeenshire, to provide a range of musical experiences, including the Kodaly Singing and Musicianship Programme, through Youth Music Initiative funding. The Aberdeenshire YMI has been recognised by Creative Scotland as being one of the most diverse and effective programmes in Scotland. The Music Service also delivered Chalumeaux, Violin, and iPad projects in what is now year 20 of YMI.

In 2022-23, Aberdeenshire Council (IMS) and Live Life Aberdeenshire (Arts Team) delivered over 20 music projects to school pupils from nursery through to secondary school. The Purpose 1 strand of our programme is delivered to whole classes in primary schools and is fully inclusive, enabling us to work towards the Scottish Government target of all pupils having access to one year's free music tuition by the time they leave primary school. Project 1 (Kodaly Singing & Musicianship) specifically addresses this target, enhanced by our Project 2 Whole Class Music projects and Purpose 2 strand.

A total of 14491 pupils in 95 Primary schools were delivered by IMS for YMI.

Instrumental Tuition Charges

Prior to March 2020 Aberdeenshire Council had a policy of charging parents/guardians a fee for instrumental tuition. Fees were suspended in March 2020 because of COVID-19.

In July 2021, COSLA and the Scottish Government announced that they had reached agreement to provide more than £7 million of funding to local authorities to remove tuition fees for academic session 2021/22. In August 2021, the Scottish Government Free Tuition was implemented. The Scottish Budget 2022-23 confirmed an investment of £12m to remove music tuition charges in schools for the 2022/23 academic session.



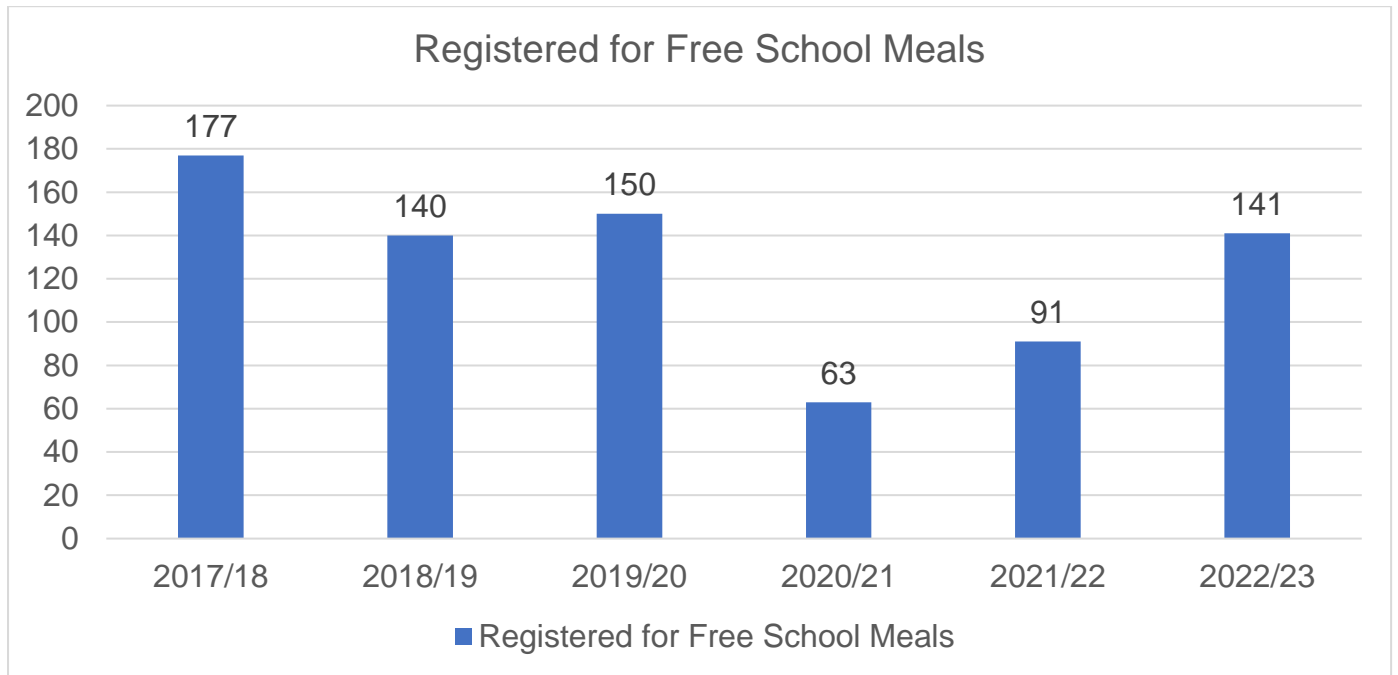
Tuition fees

Lesson Type	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Individual	£316	£328	£328	Fee suspension continued due to COVID-19. Scottish Government free instrumental tuition manifesto pledge announced April 2021	SG Free Tuition	SG Free Tuition
Group	£212	£220	£220	Fee suspension continued due to COVID-19. Scottish Government free instrumental tuition manifesto pledge announced April 2021	SG Free Tuition	SG Free Tuition

Exemptions prior to 2020 were applied for pupil registered for FSM and pupils entered for SQA courses.

141 pupils registered for free school meals accessed tuition in 2022/23.

The chart below shows pupils registered for free school meals between 2016/17 – 2022/23



The table below shows pupils registered for free school meals between 2016/17 – 2022/23

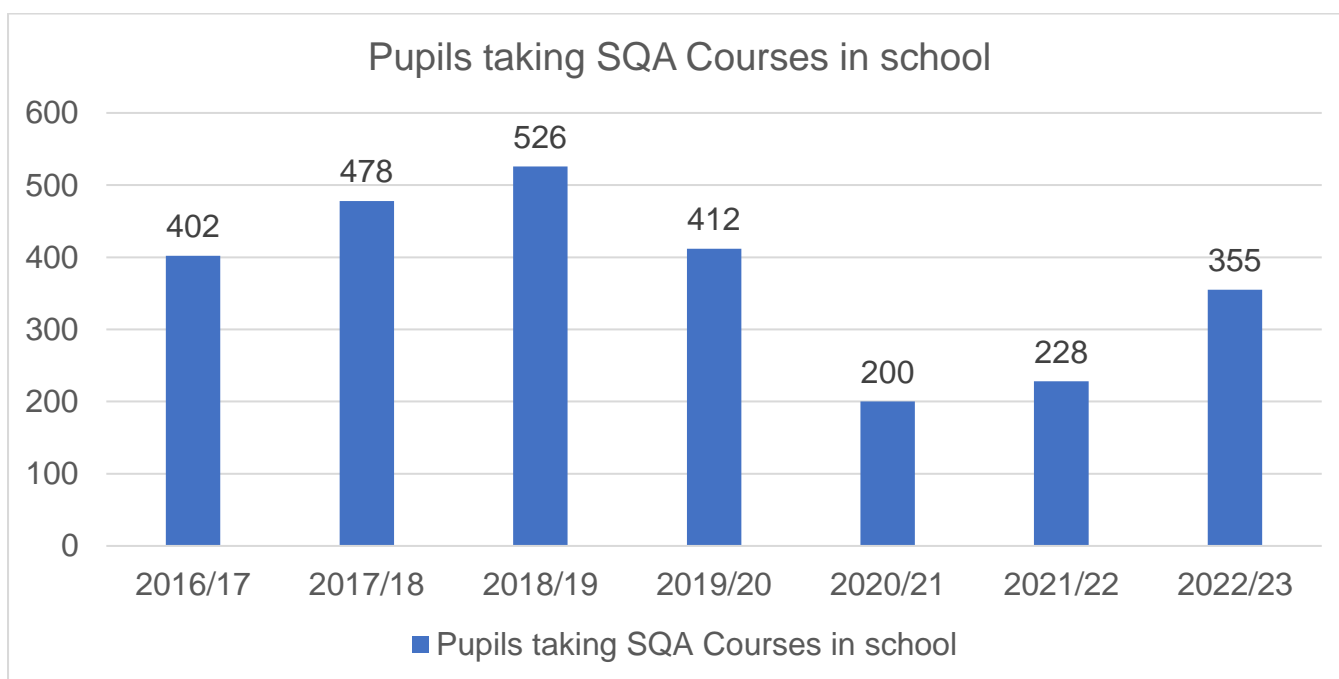
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Pupils registered for Free School Meals	177	140	150	63	91	141

The table below shows the number of pupils accessing tuition and who are also registered for Free School Meals in 2021-22 other Local Authorities.

Local Authority	Registered for Free School Meals 2021-22
Aberdeenshire	91
Angus	109
Edinburgh	309
Highland	200
North Lanarkshire	186
Moray	Data unavailable

Examinations

Senior phase (S4 to S6) pupils receiving instruction on an instrument for an SQA course 2022-23. SQA courses include Higher Music, Advanced Higher Music, National 4 Music, National 5 Music, and free-standing Music units e.g., 'Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice' coded F3F4.



The table below shows the number of pupils taking SQA Courses in school between 2016/17 – 2022/23

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Pupils taking SQA Courses in school	402	478	526	412	200	228	355

The number of pupils taking an SQA course in music fell during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Numbers increased in 2021-22. Face to face lessons were resumed in August 2021 and school ensemble and group activities resumed in January 2022. In 2022-23 there was a 45% increase in IMS pupils taking SQA courses in schools. Instructors continue to support and encourage take up of accredited courses as additional pathway to positive destinations.

Instrumental Graded Examinations attained 2022/23 Academic Year

Board	Initial	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music					
Live		5	8	11	6
Digital	1	3	15	8	1
Theory					
Trinity College		9	17	11	6
Live		2	7	12	3
Digital					
Music Teachers Board					
Live		1	1	1	
Digital					
Royal Conservatoire Scotland					
Live				1	
Digital					
Totals	1	20	48	44	16

Board	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Advanced
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music					0
Live	2	1			0
Digital					0
Theory	1				0
Trinity College	9	1	5	3	0
Live	3	1			0
Digital					0
Music Teachers Board					0
Live					0
Digital					0
Royal Conservatoire Scotland					0
Live					0
Digital					0
Totals	14	3	5	3	0
Total Digital	60				
Total F2F	94				
Grand Total	154				

During the 2022/23 academic session 30% of external examinations taken by IMS pupils were digital. This supports the redesign of the Instrumental Music Service.

Instrumental Graded Examinations attained previous years

Grade	Initial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Advance
2015/16	0	143	105	108	53	64	32	17	14	
2016/17	0	181	123	112	67	52	26	19	21	
2017/18	0	155	126	95	67	63	25	13	23	3
2018/19	0	84	95	83	50	44	7	10	12	
2019/20	0	55	32	44	26	32	16	5	8	
2020/21	0	14	5	6	0	1	2	0	2	
2021/22	0	42	50	29	35	21	8	7	4	

Numbers in 2019-20 dropped because external examinations were not available in Term 4 due to Covid-19. Examination. In 2020-21 numbers of candidates continued to fall due to examination boards not being able to run examination centres. The external examinations that did take place in 2020-21 were digital. Face to face examinations became available for all disciplines in 2022 where an increase in numbers can be seen.

Budget

Revenue Income from tuition fees (financial year)

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Income from tuition fees	£436K	£433K	£445K	£427,37	£0	£0	£0
Income from Music Centre				*£32,11	13,844	£10,930	£0
AYMS							Self financing model

* First time Music Centre income figure expressed as a separate figure.

The Scottish Government has allocated funding to local authorities to support Free Tuition implementation. In 2022-23 Aberdeenshire received £633,000.

Finance

The gross total running cost of the IMS for 2020-21 financial year was £2,126,000

The gross total running cost of the IMS for 2021-22 financial year was £2,011,000

The gross total running cost of the IMS for 2022-23 financial year was £1,990,734

Budget

2020/21 financial year total IMS cost is approximately 0.62% of the Education & Children's Service budget.

2021/22 financial year total IMS cost is approximately 0.6% of the Education & Children's Service budget.

2022/23 financial year total IMS cost is approximately 0.51% of the Education & Children's Service budget.



Instrumental Music Service Self-Evaluation

In 2023 the 2nd IMS self-evaluation took place. Sessions were led by the Music Development Manager, Service Manager, Youth Adult and Learning in Communities, and the Evaluation and Improvement Officer. This was part of a Communities Wellbeing and Partnership approach to further develop the culture of reflection, improvement and evaluation. This work was focused on improving the skills and understanding of staff engaged in the delivery of Instrumental Music with a focus on building their self-evaluation capacity.

A programme was designed based on survey results and following on from last years self-evaluation. This was designed to engage staff in building knowledge and skills for evaluation. All staff took part in two 2-hour sessions.

2023 Self-evaluation Outcomes:

- IMS team develop a shared knowledge and understanding of continuous improvement tools and processes.
- IMS team further develop skills to support continuous improvement processes.
- IMS Service builds on a shared quality assurance approach (planning, self-evaluation, reporting) cycle.

During the sessions instructors also reported that the self-evaluation gave opportunities:

- To realise that there is a strong determination from all concerned to improve the service offered
- For Self-reflection
- For colleagues to come together and problem solve
- Establish Team Time

Improvement Next Steps

- Finalise a Service Ethos alongside Visions, Values and Aims
- Utilise In Service days for Self- Evaluation sessions
- Offer Lite Bite training on using different platforms whilst engaging in Teams meetings
- Establish a culture of continuous self-evaluation throughout the year as a Service
- Schedule a programme over the year
- Build in opportunities for occasional face to face networking with colleagues

Justin Brook

Music Development Manager

Aberdeenshire Council

Instrumental Music Service