

EIS CHARTER FOR INSTRUMENTAL

MUSIC

eis

The Educational
Institute of Scotland

www.eis.org.uk

Every school pupil in Scotland should have the opportunity to receive specialist tuition on a musical instrument or in voice as part of their school education.



“The Charter for Instrumental Music is a landmark publication for the EIS. I believe that every child has the right to learn to play a musical instrument and to develop their ability to sing. The Charter sets out the extraordinary work now going on in schools in Scotland and argues that it is work that must be developed into the future. This is particularly the case at a time when budgetary reductions are threatening so much of value in our schools.”



Ronnie Smith
EIS General Secretary

Introduction

Welcome to the updated EIS Charter for Instrumental Music. This publication aims to define our role and share our vision for the future of instrumental music in Scottish education. As a nation, music plays such an important part in shaping our culture and society. In the early 1970's, instrumental tuition became a part of our education system. Its educational worth is well documented, for example 'The Mozart Effect'. The introduction of Curriculum for Excellence, 40 years later, now firmly places instrumental music provision as a core part of our young people's education.

As education faces the biggest financial cuts for more than a generation, instrumental music faces its greatest challenge - its very future existence! We call on Government and local

councils to continue to support and to fully recognise its importance and value to young people and education as a whole.

Scottish Instrumental Music Teachers are amongst the best in the world. Their expertise, professionalism and dedication must be recognised and we must applaud the contribution they make in educating our young people.

Defending and maintaining the service must be a priority at a time when the education service as a whole is facing substantial reductions in budget. Any further reductions in the service will not only undermine the quality of educational experience of our young people but will also threaten a central element of curriculum for excellence in our schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all from the education and music world who supported and contributed to this Charter.

On behalf of the Network, thank you for investing the time to read our Charter.



Mark Traynor
Convener
EIS Instrumental Music
Teachers' Network

February 2011



“From the womb to the grave we crave music.”

Music is the primary source of communication crossing all boundaries. Music teaches us everything we need to survive in life as we pass through this world - please do not cut this lifeline.”

Dame Evelyn Glennie OBE

World renowned percussionist/music ambassador

“Instrumental music lessons contribute very significantly to the social and educational development of our pupils.”

Instructors do not only teach pupils to play and appreciate music; they provide pupils of all abilities with enjoyable opportunities to work individually or as part of a group; and they motivate them to perform to a high standard in different contexts. This helps pupils to have fun, to take pride in their achievements, to gain in confidence and, of course, to learn skills which will be of great value to them throughout their lives.”

Tony Finn

Chief Executive, GTC Scotland

Scotland has a rich heritage of musical culture

which is recognised and respected worldwide. Our country has and continues to produce a wealth of world class musicians, many of whom have been taught to play a musical instrument or sing within schools in Scotland. If we are to develop and nurture this fine tradition, it is essential that well qualified instrumental music teachers are an integral part of a child's musical education.

Who we are:

Instrumental music teachers are highly skilled and qualified professionals who deliver the highest standards of instrumental tuition in the Scottish education system. There are over 750 dedicated instrumental music teachers who deliver a structured and varied programme of study which allows pupils the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in line with the four learning outcomes detailed in Curriculum for Excellence:

- Successful Learners
- Confident Individuals
- Responsible Citizens
- Effective Contributors



“Scotland has led the world in the quality of its provision of instrumental teaching for children....”

Learning a musical instrument offers children crucial experiences and capacities, including an active knowledge of and role in their own culture, a demanding but highly enjoyable personal and social

discipline, learning to work well together, sensitivity to others, self-confidence, self-respect, emotional intelligence, creativity, cognitive skills and motor and coordination skills. Learning an instrument literally helps build the brain, increasing capacity in areas of the mind concerned with understanding time and space.”

Nigel Osborne
Reid Professor
University of Edinburgh

“At school I was non-academic, I failed in most subjects.”

I realised, when I was in secondary education, that having regular guitar lessons and access to the music department meant a world opened up for me which was non-discriminatory, enjoyable, something that fitted me like Cinderella's slipper.

For children to have access to learning a musical instrument in school had proved VITAL to me. I am living proof of how learning a musical instrument in school can lay a new positive path to follow through education.

This was my experience.

Today, my children have both discovered a real sense of 'belonging to a culture' because they were both encouraged to join in with the music department in their new Scottish school when we moved home from

London to Scotland seven years ago. This was something missing in their London school. In London, their school had one music master and no tutors for learning instruments. Certainly there was no evidence of my children learning music from the country they lived in. I found that to be sad.

I was delighted that on their first week at the new Scottish school they were encouraged to learn Scots song, learn instruments, play in a ceilidh band. The joy on their faces confirmed that I had made the right move in bringing my sons home to Scotland which nurtured the stirrings of my own musical journey at school.

You have my full gratitude and support for maintaining the teaching of music in schools. It's a gift which returns even greater and surprising gifts in the future.”

Eddi Reader
Musician

What We Do:

Instrumental teachers deliver

- Curriculum based learning on a wide variety of musical instruments and in voice
- Teaching in each of the four capacities as outlined in *The Curriculum for Excellence*:
- A structured course of study that is suited to each pupil's individual ability
- Preparation for examinations delivered by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and other external examination bodies
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities which allow each pupil to participate fully and to realise their full potential
- Invaluable lifelong learning and social skills
- An appreciation of aesthetic and cultural values
- The opportunity for pupils to perform locally, nationally and internationally showcasing the range of musical talent present within Scottish education



“Were it not for the Instrumental Programme at West Calder High School, I would not be playing the bassoon today. Now, it has become my career and passion.

Already taking violin lessons privately, I was given the opportunity to learn the bassoon, for free. There was such great support and guidance through the opening stages of the lessons, and when the time came to move on to new ventures, this support continued throughout, and still does to this day. Learning an instrument has allowed me to develop not only as a musician but as a person.”

Karen Geoghegan

Professional Musician and
Runner Up in BBC Classical Star

“The Musicians’ Union warmly welcomes the EIS Instrumental Music Charter.

Instrumental Music Teachers have a crucial role in developing and nurturing the next generation of talented musicians and enriching the lives and futures of young people through access and participation in music making.”

Sheena Macdonald

Regional Organiser, Musicians’ Union

How do children benefit from learning to play a musical instrument or to sing?

There is now substantial research evidence which demonstrates that learning a musical instrument or to sing can enhance a child’s cultural, social and educational learning. *The Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes* document states:-

“Through music, learners have rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. Performing and creating music will be the prominent activities for all learners. Through these activities they develop their vocal and instrumental skills, explore sounds and musical concepts, and use their imagination and skills to create musical ideas and compositions. They can further develop their understanding and capacity to enjoy music through listening to musical

performances and commenting on them. They use ICT to realise or enhance their composition and performance and to promote their understanding of how music works.”

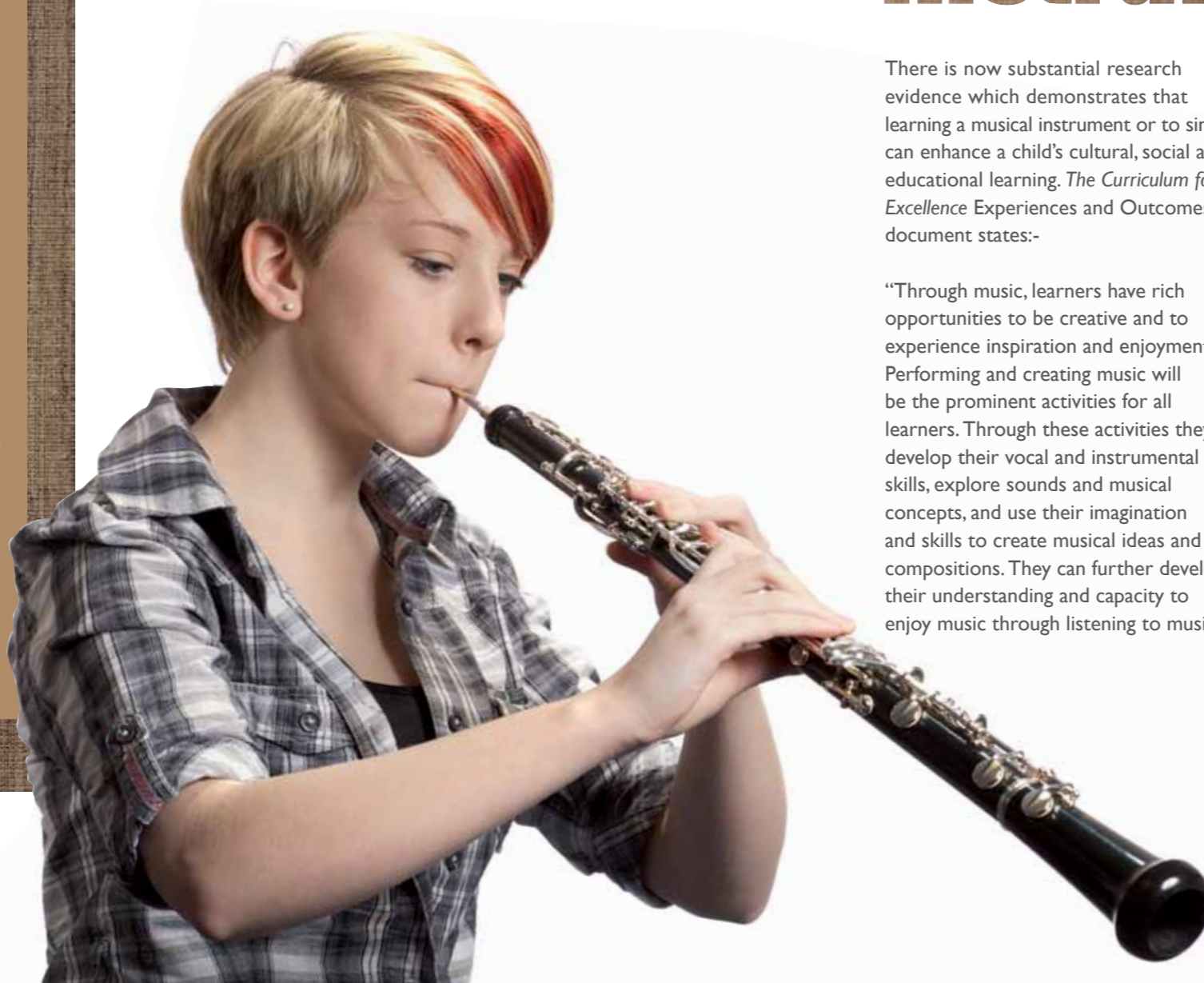
There is now clear evidence that learning to play a musical instrument can improve other areas of a child’s learning.

A 2001 US study ‘Does playing a musical instrument make a child smarter?’ states:-

“In every single test area, students who were learning to play an instrument and participating in the school band or orchestra received higher marks than their classmates. Not only that, but the longer the school children had

been in the instrumental programmes, the higher they scored.” **Wendell Harrison**, President of the Wendell Harrison Music Corporation, New York

“The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think—rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with the thoughts of other men.” **Bill Beattie**, American Manager and Coach



“ Learning to play a musical instrument has allowed me to gain in self-confidence

and face difficult challenges which I have overcome due to the many different experiences and opportunities. ”

Ailie Macdonald

6th Year Student
West Calder High School

“ The friends I made through music at school are still some of my closest now.

The teamwork and camaraderie seem to be different in music compared with other subjects. Also, the skills you learn in music at school enable you to do music for the rest of your life. ”

Jenny Delmonte

McLaren High School
Callander

“ The important work Scotland’s instrumental music teachers do in our schools is profoundly central to the infrastructure of our educational evolution and continued success throughout the world.

Without the dedicated musical expertise and inspiration from Scotland’s instrumental music teachers our nation’s youth would lose a vital link in their educational development, from learning to play an instrument as a beginner, advancing to further education, into a professional career in the music business, developing into an ambassador for our country, and hopefully an inspiration for future generations. Who knows where the next Annie Lennox, Aly Bain, Nicola Benedetti, Martyn Bennett, Sandy Brown, Jack Bruce, James Crabb, Phil Cunningham, Jimmy Deucher, Sheena Easton, Al Fairweather, Dick Gaughan, Evelyn Glennie, Lulu, Amy MacDonald, Karen Matheson, Rod Stewart, Wolfstone, Wet Wet Wet, Travis, Simple Minds, Runrig, Red Hot Chili

Pipers, The Proclaimers, Primal Scream, Franz Ferdinand, Del Amitri, Deacon Blue, Blue Nile and the Average White Band will come from.

The infrastructure of Scotland’s music education is as fragile as our eco system. The symbiosis between all the elements that form our musical pathway through our educational experience are all incredibly significant and tied together. Without Scotland’s instrumental music teachers or a diminished version of it, our country faces a loss of a magnitude that will be felt throughout the field of pedagogy, our nation’s music, and our economy. ”

Tommy Smith

International Jazz Musician





The future for pupils in Scottish Schools

- Entitlement – the right for every school aged child to receive instrumental music provision in a musical instrument or in voice
- Developing the Service – develop further instrumental music provision so that provision in Scotland is on a par with the rest of the world
- Standard of provision – maintain and enhance the standards of provision in all parts of Scotland to ensure that all pupils can achieve their full potential, regardless of their geographical location and at a time of economic uncertainty
- Equality of opportunity for all – every child should have a right to access appropriate provision regardless of gender, race or disability

The future for instrumental teachers

- GTCS Registration – registration as an instrumental music teacher. This would acknowledge the status of instrumental teachers and give parity with classroom teacher colleagues
- Continuing Professional Development – access to the highest quality CPD in order to enhance the quality of instrumental teaching throughout Scotland
- Pay & Conditions – maintain a clear link with the pay & conditions of service of qualified classroom teachers
- SQA – entitlement of instrumental teachers to be involved in the assessment/examination of the performing element of present and future SQA music examinations
- Maintain the number of music instrumental teachers at a time of budget cuts

As instrumental music teachers we call for:

- Government funding to allow the teaching of instrumental music to develop in all parts of Scotland
- Support for the teaching of instrumental music at a time of budget cuts across all sectors of education
- Government support for free tuition for all pupils throughout Scotland
- CPD for instrumental music teachers to reflect a changing curriculum
- Training and development for instrumental music teachers to allow access for pupils with disabilities
- Research to be undertaken to investigate the value for pupils of instrumental music teaching





The following websites also hold useful information:

- The Educational Institute of Scotland www.eis.org.uk
- Musician's Union www.musiciansunion.org.uk
- Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland www.hitscotland.org.uk
- Guidelines for Instrumental Teaching in Scottish Schools (Published by: Scottish Government 2003) www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2003/03/16937/21256
- International Society for Music Education www.isme.org
- Music Education Online www.childrensmusicworkshop.com

The EIS wishes to thank

the Education Department of West Lothian Council for allowing access to students and teachers to enable the photographs in this Charter to be taken.

Photographs by www.mkjphotography.co.uk





For further information about instrumental teaching contact the Education Department in your local authority area.

eis

The Educational
Institute of Scotland

Revised February 2011

For details of the work of the EIS contact
EIS headquarters, 46 Moray Place,
Edinburgh EH3 6BH

Printed and published by The Educational
Institute of Scotland, 46 Moray Place,
Edinburgh EH3 6BH, www.eis.org.uk