



Whole Class Ensemble Tuition and support for music progression Academic year 2025-26



THE PROGRAMME

Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) gives all children and young people an experience of learning to play a musical instrument and exploring music-making as a whole class. This is a fantastic opportunity to discover and develop new interests, talents and skills. For many children this may be their first opportunity to try a musical instrument.

WCET fulfils all aspects of the National Curriculum and supports the Model Music Curriculum.


Summative assessment is provided, identifying those who may wish to continue learning an instrument and playing in a group.

To this end, the WCET programme works closely with the Approved Tutor scheme and York Music Centre.

The National Plan for Music Education recommends that: ***every child should have the opportunity to play a musical instrument***



“
You can express your feelings
Year 4 student”



“
It just makes you love learning
Year 4 student”

THE BENEFITS

Playing a musical instrument and singing have huge musical benefits and there is strong evidence that this supports the development of:

**team work - concentration - self confidence -
mental health - perseverance - problem solving -
communication and language - listening - appraising**

Over time, the WCET programme benefits schools by:

- giving every child the opportunity to try an instrument
- giving those children, who so wish, the opportunity to continue learning an instrument and playing in groups by working closely with Approved Tutors and [York Music Centre](#)



“ It helps with physical and social development ”
Primary headteacher

INSTRUMENTS

Instruments are supplied for every child in a class (including the teacher) as part of the programme. These include:

violins, violas, flutes, clarinets, recorders, trumpets, trombones, guitars, ukuleles, Samba and 'junk' percussion.

String instruments can be supplied in appropriate $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ sizes.



“It makes me feel confident”
Year 5 student

CONTINUATION AND PROGRESSION

Many pupils wish to continue playing an instrument after their initial experiences and to take more formal lessons in small groups or individually. The WCET programme works closely with Approved Tutors to ensure that pupils, schools and parents find an appropriate progression path.

For those who wish to continue playing in larger groups, the WCET programme links with First Access ensembles at [York Music Centre](#) – membership is free of charge for any pupil participating in the WCET programme.

York Music Education also offers very low cost instrument hire and instrumental/vocal tuition*.

*Further remissions are available (including free tuition, free [instrument hire](#) and free membership to all groups at [York Music Centre](#)) for families on low income.

“
Growing up to love music”
Year 5 student

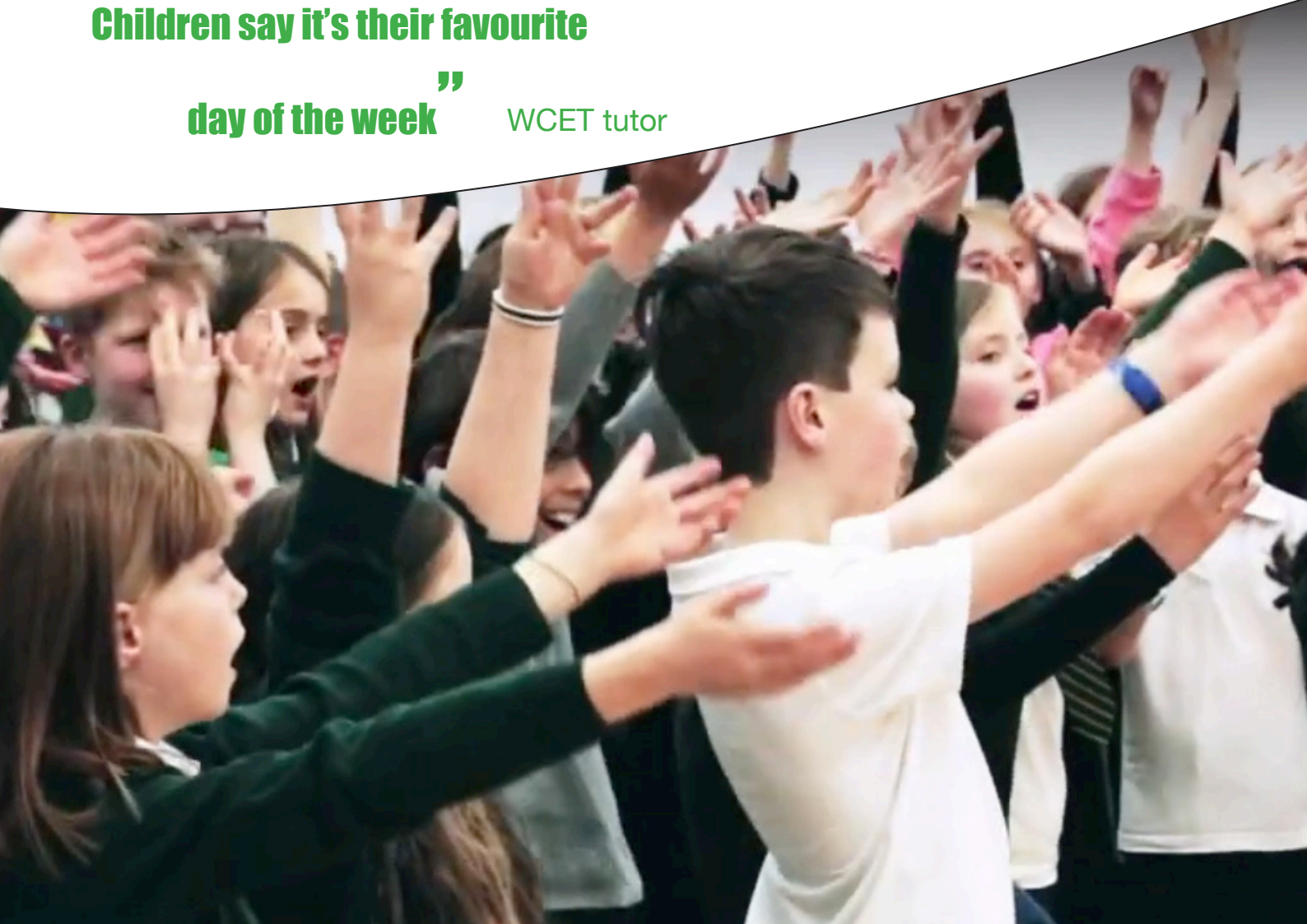


WCET PACKAGE FOR SCHOOLS

- A qualified, experienced instrumental tutor
- Quality instruments for a whole class including the class teacher
- Insurance, repair and replacement for any instrument damaged (whilst on school premises)
- Free CPD sessions for class teachers
- Free access for WCET pupils to attend York Music Centre 'first access' groups. See website for more details www.yorkmusiced.org.uk
- Support with small group and individual tuition for those who wish to continue
- Support for Music Award Discover and Explore www.Musicaward.org.uk

“
Children say it's their favourite
day of the week”

WCET tutor



GUIDELINES AND COSTS FOR SCHOOLS

One 'unit' of WCET = 1 x tutor for 1 x hour per week for 11 x weeks (i.e. one term).

Unit cost - **£650** (this includes a class-set of either ukulele, recorder or junk percussion instruments)

Other instruments available (subject to hire charge and availability).

For the programme to have maximum impact it is recommended that:

- Schools support the programme on a rolling annual basis
- Class teachers and/or TAs learn alongside the children
- Each school agrees to work closely with the WCET tutor to support continuation and progression both within and beyond the school

If schools can demonstrate they have the in-house expertise to deliver the programme themselves, York Music Education is able to supply a class set of instruments to the school, for a small hire charge, subject to availability.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

Our York Music Education team is available to provide support for a range of other activities such as leading an ensemble at lunchtimes or after school. Bespoke requirements can be discussed with individual schools.

**“ Not just learning music but developing their discipline skills,
their listening skills ”** WCET tutor

“ It makes me feel happy and free ” Year 4 student

**“ I would whole-heartedly recommend schools trying Whole
Class Ensemble Tuition ”** Primary music coordinator

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to discuss the Whole Class Ensemble Tuition programme including additional support and how this can be tailored to your school's needs, please contact us:

email: dan.hield@yorkmusiced.org.uk

Tel: 01904 293236

For more information about the WCET programme and to see the promotional film click [HERE](#)

