

LEICESTERSHIRE MUSIC HUB

Leicestershire Music Hub Impact Report 2026



Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Hello

At Leicestershire Music, we are proud to be part of a collaborative network ensuring every child and young person can experience the power of music. As Hub Lead Organisation, we deliver high quality music education while supporting schools, educators and partners across Leicester and Leicestershire.

This report highlights the commitment, creativity and expertise of those working across schools, communities and cultural settings to create inclusive opportunities for young people to learn, perform, create and belong.

Beyond musical achievement, music builds confidence,

supports wellbeing, inspires creativity and helps young people develop resilience and a sense of belonging. Its impact is often life-changing.

As we look to the future, our shared commitment to equity, inclusion and excellence remains strong. This report demonstrates a simple but powerful truth: music changes lives.

Sarah Barton-Wales
Head of Leicestershire Music



“The impact of what Leicestershire Music does can’t be measured on a spreadsheet, it’s in the individuals lives you change”

Jonathan Vaughan, Principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Leicestershire Music Alumnus

★ VIDEOS

See our work in action by scanning the QR codes!



Tour Film



Grime Opera



Tell Tall Tales Film



The Making of Space Scratch Symphony

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

This year over **20,000** students experienced the impact of our work!



361
schools
supported
through
music-making
activities

10732

students taught
through classroom
instrumental
learning



3763
students
took part in
a singing
project

600

instruments
hired
out to
individuals



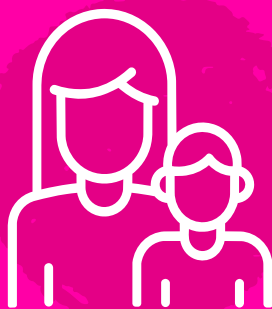
432

played in
a music
group,
band,
orchestra,
ensemble



100+

young people
accessed music
through targeted
group work
delivered by
partners.



647
pupils received
1:1 or small
group music
lessons

8494

instruments
hired out
to schools

Data taken from academic year 2025-26

**Enriching and connecting your world through
life changing musical experiences**



THE IMPACT OF MUSIC IN 2025–26!

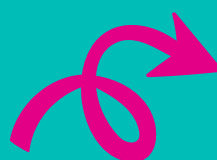
This year, we have seen that music does far more than develop musical skills. Across Leicester and Leicestershire, children and young people have used music to build confidence, improve wellbeing, form friendships and develop a stronger sense of belonging.

Through inclusive programmes, live performance opportunities, targeted interventions and support for schools, music has helped young people find their voice, overcome barriers and realise their potential.

- Thousands of children and young people took part in concerts, festivals, choirs, music groups and community performances.
- Young people consistently reported increased confidence, self-esteem and happiness through music-making.
- Parents and teachers highlighted improvements in communication, emotional wellbeing, resilience and engagement.
- Children and young people developed new friendships, stronger connections and a greater sense of belonging within their schools and communities.



Scan here to see our collaborative work with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra





**FUN,
LEARNING,
BONDING**

**MUSIC KEEPS
ME HAPPY...
IT MAKES ME
FEEL ALIVE!**

**BEING ABLE
TO EXPRESS
MYSELF WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES**

MUSIC MAKING THAT RECONNECTED YOUNG LIVES

Starting in Spring 2026, 70 young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs benefited from a targeted music programme delivered by four specialist Music Leaders. Designed for students at risk of exclusion and persistent absence, the programme used music-making, performance and production to help young people re-engage with education, develop positive relationships, discover their strengths and develop a sense of belonging.

The programme resulted in improved attendance, music qualification success, and significant gains in confidence, wellbeing and self-expression, with the young people consistently reporting positive impacts on their happiness and sense of self-worth.

INCLUSIVE MUSIC FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON

Leicestershire Music's specialist SEND provision, led by a SEND Music Leader, ensures children and young people with additional needs can access high-quality, meaningful musical experiences.

Through personalised music-making, instrumental exploration and performance opportunities, students develop confidence, communication skills, emotional wellbeing and self-expression.

Through initiatives such as the SINGclusive Choir, young people experience the joy of performing, develop friendships and gain a sense of belonging within a supportive musical community.

Schools reported significant improvements in engagement, self-esteem and personal development, while parents describe the joy and pride of seeing their children take centre stage and thrive through music.

"The music sessions provided by Anna have had a powerful and lasting impact on our students. Many have shown noticeable improvements in focus, emotional regulation and communication, while the personalised approach has helped build self-esteem and a sense of achievement."

Sophie, Music Lead

"The SINGclusive Choir brought tears to everyone's eyes and it was a really special moment. It was wonderful to be given that opportunity too. He loved performing, and we are so grateful for this incredible experience."

Parent of SINGclusive Choir Member



INSPIRING YOUNG LIVES THROUGH LIVE MUSIC AND MUSIC MAKING

Every child deserves the chance to experience the excitement, joy and wonder of live music. Through concerts, festivals, school performances, community events, choirs and ensembles, Leicestershire Music and its partners opened the door to experiences that many young people would otherwise never have access to.

For some, it is the first time they have experienced live music. For others, it is the first time they have stood on a stage, performed alongside hundreds of peers, travelled on a musical tour or shared their achievements with an audience.

These experiences do far more than develop musical skills. They build confidence, raise aspirations, strengthen wellbeing and create a powerful sense of belonging. When young people perform together, they discover their voice, develop lasting friendships and realise what they can achieve as part of something bigger than themselves.

"The power of music was transformational today. Children who struggle were thriving. They thoroughly enjoyed every moment, and we would love this to be something we can take our children to every year."

Headteacher, Coalville

"It was incredibly moving to watch and I was so blown away by the power of all those young musicians playing together. Such a beautiful thing!"

Parent feedback,
Festival Wind &
Strings Concert



Leics Celebrate concert highlights



EMPOWERING GIRLS

The She's Electric programme, delivered in partnership by Leicestershire Music and Pedestrian, provided a safe, inclusive and supportive 12-week music project for girls aged 12–16, many of whom faced barriers to participation.

Through singing, song writing, recording and music production, participants used music as a tool for emotional expression, confidence-building and self-discovery. The girls left feeling more supported, capable and connected, with enhanced musical skills and aspirations for the future.



"I FOUND I HAVE A TALENT. I CAN LEARN A SONG JUST BY LISTENING TO IT ONCE! MY BIGGEST STRENGTH IS PUTTING EMOTION INTO MY SONGS." She's Electric participant 2026

LEICS CONNECT:



MUSIC INDUSTRY CAREERS

Thank you for giving this opportunity of skills, knowledge and experience. Not forgetting the building of self esteem, self worth, self identity and confidence. Furthermore, friendships. Forever grateful.

Parent of Leics Connect Participant, 2026

Now in its second year, Leics Connect is helping young people develop confidence, build lasting friendships and see themselves as part of the future music industry. A key outcome of the programme was the significant improvement in participants' confidence and sense of belonging within a supportive creative community.

Performing at Riverside Festival and gaining real world experiences, young people built positive relationships with peers who shared similar interests and aspirations, creating an environment where they felt supported, valued and encouraged.



CREATING MUSICAL SCHOOLS

During 2025-26, Leicestershire Music and its partners supported 93% of schools across Leicester and Leicestershire, helping schools create environments where young people can thrive.

Through professional development, live music experiences, singing projects, specialist resources and tailored support, music has become a powerful driver of wellbeing, confidence and inclusion within school communities.



OUR WORK WITH THE MUSIC HUB HAS BEEN FANTASTIC. WHETHER THAT HAS BEEN WITH MYSELF AS MUSIC LEAD OFFERING SUPPORT IN TERMS OF OUR CURRICULUM, OR OFFERING HANDS ON, LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCES FOR OUR PUPILS.

OUR PUPILS HAVE BEEN GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE PART IN SOME WONDERFUL EVENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY THAT HAVE BOOSTED THEIR CONFIDENCE, SELF-ESTEEM AND WELLBEING!

Music Lead, Leicestershire SEND School.



More information about how we're working to ensure that all young people in Leicester and Leicestershire can access quality music making opportunities can be found on our website – www.leicestershiremusichub.org

Follow us!

Why not follow us on social media for the latest news and music making opportunities from **Leicestershire Music** and our Partner Groups?



Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **TikTok**, & **Youtube** using **@leicsmakemusic**.

You can also find **Leicestershire Music** on **LinkedIn**

www.leicestershiremusichub.org