

## What is a Lead School?

The core purpose of a Lead School, as set out within the [NPME](#), is to champion music education, developing and nurturing local school relationships and networks as part of and on behalf of the Hub. Lead Schools are expected to supplement, not replace, the role of the Hub. They should play a distinct and additional role in supporting other schools to improve their music provision.

Lead Schools should act as an ambassador for music education, and model behaviour and practice expected from schools in relation to music (as set out in the NPME). Lead Schools are a key partner within the Hub and help with engaging schools within the Hub area, demonstrating and advocating for the vital role schools will play in ensuring the success of the NPME.

### Lead Schools will be expected to:

Appoint a primary contact who will regularly engage with ASONE Hub.

- Understand what the local needs are for teachers and schools.
- Work with the Hub to agree and set realistic and credible objectives for how they will help to improve / address local need.
- Promote shared messaging, explaining the importance of collaboration to schools and helping them to recognise their role in inclusion and progression.
- Connect with other schools in the local area (including other Lead Schools) to support curriculum music education and co-curricular activities.
- Encourage a culture of data and information sharing to enable more effective music education provision.

- Keep ASONE Hub informed about issues or challenges facing teachers and schools.
- Champion inclusion, forging good links with special schools and alternative provision settings, promoting equity of access and diversity of genres and provision.
- Working with ASONE Hub to develop and/or commission CPD delivery and peer-to-peer support.
- Support ASONE Hub in establishing or developing wider education or music sector partnerships, where appropriate.

### What is the expected commitment of the Lead Schools?

- Will work with ASONE Hub to help curate/design/shape activity that will benefit fellow schools/settings.
- Will attend termly planning meetings.
- Will attend school networks/CPD sessions/activities/events.
- Will advocate and amplify the work of the Music Hub.

### What do the Lead Schools get in return?

- Recognition as a Lead School/ with exemplary music education provision.
- Digital accreditation/badge.
- We propose an in-kind model of flexible/negotiated remuneration with additional partial-paid cover release as appropriate and based on need and available budget.
- Where appropriate, one-off financial support for bespoke projects may happen.
- Lead Schools may be invited to represent the Music Hub at local events, national events, conferences, or other hub-related activities.
- An agreement will be prepared between the Lead School and ASONE Hub.





## Designated Focus Areas:

In line with ASONE's programme objectives, schools may apply for up to three areas that align with their demonstrated strengths.

- Vocal Strategy and Collective Singing
- Music Technology
- Bridging the Gap - Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Accessibility
- Performance Opportunities and Community Intersection
- Ensemble Development
- Instrumental Provision
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

## Lead School Recruitment Ambitions:

ASONE aims to recruit at least one primary and one secondary school.

It is our ambition to also recruit, where possible, at least one:

- FE Setting/College
- SEND Setting
- AP Setting

## Criteria for Appointing Lead Music Schools

When assessing applications, ASONE Hub will be considering if your school has the following:

- Capacity to take on a Lead School role.
- An established rich musical culture, curriculum, co-curricular and extra-curricular offer in the school.
- An Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' for overall effectiveness in their most recent inspection.
- Secondary schools / All through schools should offer music as a GCSE (or equivalent music qualification).
- Secondary Schools / All through schools with a sixth form should offer music to all students who wish to take it in the school (A- level or another music qualification).

- Historic track record of investing in music CPD for teachers and/or other school staff.
- School Music Development Plan.
- Have a proven track record of introducing and fully embedding music on the school curriculum.
- Commitment to supporting pupil progression across the whole school community.
- Has a track record of, or potential to, promote the teaching of music with schools locally and/or regionally and leading / supporting CPD for music teachers or any other relevant subjects.
- Strong focus on inclusion.

## Key information

- A partnership agreement will be prepared between the Lead School and ASONE Hub.
- If you are selected to be a Lead School, the initial agreement will be in place for one academic year.
- The agreement will be evaluated after one year and then on a rolling basis.
- The agreement will then be re-assessed every five years or sooner if the Lead Person leaves the school.

## Key dates

- Application deadline: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 17:00
- Schools will be informed if they're shortlisted by: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March
- Lead Schools will be informed if they have been successful by: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March
- Lead Schools will be announced by: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

## Application Form

You can find the application form here: [Lead School Application Form 2025](#)