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### **Welcome to Young Sounds Connect**

Connect is run by Young Sounds UK and Severn Arts.

Young Sounds UK is a national charity who support talented young musicians from all across the UK.

Severn Arts oversees music education and musical opportunities for young people in your area.

### **What can I expect for my pupil?**

Connect is designed to support young musicians work towards achieving their musical goals. We will support them in a number of ways:

- Each week during the school year they'll have a 20 minute instrumental lesson funded by Connect.
- The pupil and their instrumental teacher will work on an Online-Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for the pupil, via Charanga. This is to help set and review musical goals.
- Each pupil can access a £50 Connect Music Fund via their teacher. The fund renews every April. This can be used towards things that help them achieve the musical goals set in their ILP. For example, it could be used to buy tickets to see live music, to buy sheet music, equipment or many other things. Their teacher will help them decide how to spend their Music Fund.
- Opportunity for the pupil and family to regularly speak with a student mentor.

### **Creating a musical community**

Each term we will invite each pupil to a Connect Get Together event. These are often hands-on music making opportunities. Each one will be different and they can expect to experience many genres of music, from beatboxing to opera or folk music. We hope that pupils and their family will come along and feel part of the Connect community in Worcestershire.

### **Financial eligibility**

The Connect Programme is aimed at supporting young musicians from low-income families. We accept nominations based on trust and won't ever ask for evidence. Indicators such as receiving free school meals will be seen as evidence of financial need. We also use the gross family income set by the DfE Music and Dance Scheme as another indicator of financial need. For the 2024/25 academic year we are only able to consider young musicians whose total gross family income is £34,037.12 or less (once £2,335 has been deducted for each dependent in the family, including the young person being funded). Again, we will not ask for evidence of financial need, but this needs to be a conversation with the parent/carer of the pupil to establish the financial need and therefore the eligibility to the programme.

### **Severn Arts contact**

My name is Rachel Davies and I am the Connect Project Manager for Worcestershire and first point of contact. My job is to manage the programme and support the pupils to help them make the most of this opportunity. For further information, please get in touch by email: [r.davies@severnarts.org.uk](mailto:r.davies@severnarts.org.uk) or by phone: 07780665046.