

Tower Hamlets Arts & Music Education Service

Service Level Agreement for Music

September 2025 until July 2026

The Tower Hamlets Arts & Music Education Service (THAMES) is funded by the Department for Education and is a lead partner in the East London Music Alliance (ELMA), the Music Hub for London East.

We provide high quality instrumental/vocal tuition with a free loan of instruments for pupils. We also offer a range of ensembles including instrument specific groups, Children's Choirs, a Big Band, Tower Hamlets Youth Orchestra, and an inclusive ensemble for disabled and non-disabled pupils. We offer an Awards Scheme for pupils with musical aptitude and a wide range of arts and music enrichment projects across all arts disciplines (dance, drama, film and media, music, and visual arts). These are delivered by numerous local and nationally recognised cultural partners (see our website) and most are offered to schools free of charge. All work delivered by THAMES supports the National Curriculum for Music and Art and the refreshed National Plan for Music Education (NPME).

To reflect this broad offer there is a small termly service charge. For just £105 per term schools have access to further support, resources, and advisory services (see Benefits).

Each school has an assigned THAMES Link Manager who can either talk with you on the phone or meet with you in school to discuss your music requirements for 2025-26.

See page 5 for full contact details.

THAMES offers music lessons as follows:

Instrument	Individual lesson	Small-group	Half-class	Whole-class	Minimum Yr Group
Violin	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
Cello	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
Viola	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Double Bass	✓	✓	x	x	5
Mixed strings	x	x	✓	✓	2
Recorder	✓	✓	✓	✓	3
Flute	✓	✓	x	x	4
Clarinet	✓	✓	x	x	4
Saxophone	✓	✓	x	x	4
Oboe	✓	✓	x	x	4
Bassoon	✓	✓	x	x	4
Trumpet	✓	✓	x	x	4
Cornet	✓	✓	x	x	4
French Horn	✓	✓	x	x	4
Tenor Horn	✓	✓	x	x	4
Baritone	✓	✓	x	x	4
Euphonium	✓	✓	x	x	4
Trombone	✓	✓	x	x	4
Tuba	✓	✓	x	x	7
Mixed brass	x	✓	✓	x	4
Tuned Percussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
African Drums	x	✓	✓	✓	EYFS
Steel Pans	x	✓	✓	x	4
Tabla / Dohl	✓	✓	✓	x	5
Drum Kit	✓	✓	x	x	5
Piano	✓	✓	x	x	3
Keyboard	✓	✓	x	x	3
Guitar	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Electric Guitar	✓	✓	x	x	6
Bass Guitar	✓	✓	x	x	7
Vocal	✓	✓	✓	✓	EYFS
SEND Music sessions	✓	✓	x	x	1
Ensembles	x	Small group	Large group	Orchestra	4

Nursery Schools	A range of singing and/or percussion based music classes
Primary Schools	Instrumental and singing lessons, including directing school choirs and ensembles Advice for curriculum support and development as required
Secondary Schools	Instrumental and singing lessons, including directing school choirs and ensembles Advice for curriculum support and development as required
Special Schools and other settings	Bespoke provision as agreed through planning meetings. This work may be provided by a cultural partner organisation

Benefits

- At cost instrumental, vocal and ensemble tuition (whole class/large group/small group/individual lessons) delivered by highly qualified instrumental tutors.
- Tutors are DBS checked and receive regular INSET training, including Safeguarding. All tutors are mentored by THAMES through a Support & Development Programme, including lesson observations as appropriate.
- Bespoke support for ensuring tuition is accessible for all pupils, especially those who may face barriers to instrumental tuition.
- FREE instrumental hire and instrumental repair for all instruments belonging to THAMES.
- FREE Award lessons for pupils in KS2 who show musical aptitude and commitment to learning.
- FREE advice for all schools in developing their School Music Development Plans and National Curriculum provision.
- FREE Singing Days and other bespoke singing opportunities as part of the THAMES Singing Strategy.
- FREE In-service training (INSET) for the arts and music.
- FREE networking opportunities including teacher networks for dance, drama, music, and the visual arts.
- FREE (or at nominal cost) Arts and Music projects, events, and workshops for schools.
- FREE Concerts and performing opportunities.
- FREE support and advice for resources, accommodation, and teacher recruitment
- A Wednesday music centre for primary pupils learning orchestral instruments in schools (at nominal cost with remission fees)
- A Saturday music centre for all pupils learning instruments in schools (at nominal cost with remission fees)
- Numerous ensemble opportunities for all pupils learning instruments in schools, including a Youth Orchestra and Inclusive Ensemble.

- FREE general advisory support for all aspects of arts and cultural provision in schools including drama, dance, visual arts as well as music. Any additional bespoke work is charged at £425 per day.

Terms and Costs

All SLAs with schools are for a full academic year. There is an at-cost charge for instrumental, vocal and ensemble tuition, class music teaching and occasionally nominal charges for projects dependent on funding. The weekly instrumental/vocal lessons are charged to schools on a termly basis.

Standard terms and conditions apply.

Description	Charge Rate
<p>Offer A (standard rate):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tutors for individual or small group instrumental and vocal lessons - Support tutors (if and as required) for whole class instrumental teaching 	<p>£46.25 per hour per tutor</p>
<p>Offer B (higher rate):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead tutors for whole class instrumental and vocal teaching at all Key Stages 	<p>£52.50 per hour per tutor</p>
<p>Termly service charge</p>	<p>£105</p>
<p><i>Bespoke advice and support for schools on curriculum development and whole school improvement using the arts</i></p>	<p>£425 per day or pro rata or as agreed as part of the SLA</p>

In addition to contact time, some tutors will be paid for an extra 30 minutes each week (if they prepare, set up and pack away multiple instruments for whole class lessons e.g. strings, guitars, percussion). Tutors delivering curriculum music lessons will also be paid for some planning time, negotiated with schools in accordance with the number of lessons taught.

Your THAMES Link Manager will provide you with a projected budget for the music services you have requested for the academic year 2025-26.

As soon as you have agreed to the proposals you will need to **purchase the THAMES SLA package for 2025-26 on the SLA Online system:**

www.sla-online.co.uk

Teaching cannot commence until purchase has been made.

Contact THAMES

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[THAMES Website Home](#)

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