

Sussex Music Hub Teacher Forum Meeting Notes

Wednesday 15 July 2026, 4-5.30pm, on Zoom

Key Feedback

1. Lead Schools and Wider School Challenges

There was interest in understanding more clearly how Lead Schools were formed and what their role is. Lead Schools could potentially act as the 'ears to the ground' to identify good practice, expertise and activity happening across their local areas.

There was support for Lead Schools facilitating local groups or partnership arrangements between schools.

Schools differ considerably in their willingness and ability to release music teachers for CPD, so a range of formats is needed.

There was a strong view that in-person events are valuable, particularly for networking and creating a lively, collaborative atmosphere, but more accessible online opportunities should be provided.

The Curriculum Assessment Review (CAR) is ongoing with equity of access to music remaining a concern. Examples were given of Pupil Premium-funded music lessons being reduced in some schools.

2. CPD Priorities and Delivery

There was strong support for a more regular, varied and accessible CPD offer.

Suggestions included:

- A TeachMeet once a term, potentially rotating between West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove
- A regular date in the calendar, e.g. a particular Thursday each month/term
- Short, 60–90 minute online sessions during the school day, allowing schools to cover one or two lessons rather than release staff for a whole day
- Blended events combining the benefits of face-to-face networking with online
- Bitesize sessions and resources throughout the year, rather than relying mainly on an annual conference
- Themed local partnership CPD sessions, potentially facilitated by Lead Schools
- Opportunities for every school to share something they are doing around an agreed theme, helping to identify and disseminate good practice.

Primary CPD priorities:

- Teaching notation and progression across KS1 & 2
- Assessment and moderation, including looking at/listening to pupil work with other teachers
- Singing assemblies: resources, improving singing quality and developing musicality
- Diverse music, culture and heritage
- Greater confidence around assessment and curriculum expectations
- Opportunities to visit other schools and see music practice in action.

Secondary CPD priorities:

- Bitesize TeachMeets and regular CPD opportunities
- More local/regional networking
- Blended and online sessions to improve accessibility
- Sharing practical resources and good practice.

3. Sharing Resources and Good Practice

It was suggested that conference resources should be shared with all schools, including those unable to attend.

A shared online drive/resource area on the new Sussex Music Hub (SMH) website was welcomed.

Teachers would value practical resources that save time, e.g. prepared/tabbed bass and guitar parts.

Where SMH cannot provide a resource directly, offering a point of contact for someone who has the required resource or expertise would be useful.

A key question is how SMH can identify good practice happening across the Hub. Lead Schools could potentially play an important role in identifying and sharing this.

4. Wider School Engagement

There is a need to ensure that non-Lead Schools feel their voices are heard. Suggestions included:

- Local school groups
- Coaching/peer partnerships between schools
- Themed local partnership CPD
- Lead Schools facilitating activity within their local areas
- Regional TeachMeets where schools share practice.

There was concern that the previous Brighton & Hove network/community offer has become more diluted through a broader regional approach. Participants valued locality-based opportunities.

Communications should be short, clear and focused, with “free” highlighted where appropriate.

The website could provide a central place for resources, information and opportunities.

5. Conferences and Whole-School Engagement

Headteachers should be included in communications about the Secondary Conference to encourage SLT buy-in and make it easier for teachers to attend. Schools vary in how willing they are to release music teachers, so conference attendance can be difficult.

The positive elements of the WSM primary conference could inform future Sussex-wide conferences, including sharing successful workshops and approaches.

There was strong support for the value of in-person engagement, but this should sit alongside shorter online CPD.

6. Other Priorities and Feedback

Singing was strongly supported as a priority because every school can engage with it and it provides an inclusive way for pupils to participate in music.

Music being squeezed out of the curriculum remains a concern, particularly where staff lack confidence and music is less visible in school evidence.

There is an appetite for greater collaboration around curriculum, assessment and moderation. The CAR and issues around access to music remain important areas for SMH to monitor.

There was general support for work on [Pathways Into Music](#), ECT support, the new SMH website, a library of instruments and the singing sub-group.

The [SMH Infographic](#) outlining highlights for 2024/25 was shared with attendees.