

PE1694/K

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar submission of 23 October 2018

The drop-out rate of children having instrumental music tuition in the past two years: The number of children within the Comhairle's primary school instrumental music tuition programme was 868 in the last school session. In addition to meeting the P5 target, the Comhairle provides free tuition to all children in P6 and P7. If any child drops out of this provision it is through choice and not on account of cost. In our secondary schools, all SQA candidates are provided with tuition free of charge, and some music tuition is also provided as part of Broad General Education (BGE), also free of charge.

The projected drop-out rate for this year if charges for instrumental music tuition continue to increase as they have done in recent years: This issue does not apply to the Comhairle, as there has been no increase in charges.

Is there a particular reason that instrumental music tuition is not being regarded by Education Departments as a core subject? As noted above, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar provides as much free tuition as possible, but budgetary considerations are always a factor in assessing the provision of this, as other, service(s).