

P1694/C

South Lanarkshire Council submission of 8 October 2018

Thank you for your recent enquiry in regard to instrumental music tuition within South Lanarkshire Council. I am happy to provide the following information in response:

The drop-out rate of children having instrumental music tuition in the past two years?

- During Academic Session 2015-16 South Lanarkshire Council's Instrumental Music Service delivered instrumental music tuition to 3050 pupils (inclusive of pupils who were charged for tuition, and pupils who received instrumental music tuition free of charge as part of their Scottish Qualifications Authority or Youth Music Initiative learning).
- During Academic Session 2016-17 instrumental music tuition was delivered to 2990 pupils.
- During Academic Session 2017-18 instrumental music tuition was delivered to 2790 pupils.

The projected drop-out rate for this year if charges for instrumental music tuition continue to increase as they have done in recent years?

- At this time South Lanarkshire Council does not plan to increase the charge for instrumental music tuition during Academic Session 2018-19. Therefore any instrumental music pupil drop-out would not be linked to increased tuition rates.

Is there a particular reason that instrumental music tuition is not being regarded by education departments as a core subject?

- It is the case that *"instrumental music tuition is an additional and discretionary service provided by local authorities"* (Instrumental Music Tuition in Scotland, Scottish Government 2013). Despite the current economic and financial constraints and challenges South Lanarkshire Council has managed to sustain and grow the provision of this discretionary service across its learning communities. The Service provides high quality instrumental music tuition, performance opportunities and Youth Music Initiative musical learning experiences to in excess of 9000 children and young people between the learning stages of P4 – S6. High quality and creative music tuition affords pupils the opportunity to enjoy and perform music in both personal and interactive settings, further enhanced by the blending of equitable and suitably challenging learning experiences and outcomes for children and young people.