

**PE1694/N**

Renfrewshire Council submission of 11 October 2018

**(i) The drop-out rate of children having instrumental music tuition in the past two years**

**2016/17** The number of young people accessing instrumental tuition decreased by 14.

**2017/18** The number of young people accessing instrumental tuition increased by 417.

As part of its commitment to regeneration through culture and heritage, Renfrewshire Council removed all charges relating to music tuition in April 2017. This policy is part of the Paisley, City of Culture Legacy Programme. By adopting this approach, we hope to ensure equitable opportunity for all young people in our schools. Instruments are available, free of charge to our young people for as long as they need. Our staff are resourced with materials and equipment in order to protect poorer families from the costs of buying music and accessories that go hand in hand with learning to play an instrument.

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

We expect numbers to remain stable in Renfrewshire as we do not charge for music tuition. This is reflected in the increase in participation during the 2017/18 year. Most schools are operating at capacity with waiting lists in most cases. We believe that we are able to offer tuition to approximately 1 in 3 young people who come forward to express an interest in learning to play an instrument.

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

The issue of statutory status for any service is not a decision for any Local Authority to take in isolation. However, the Music Service is highly valued by Renfrewshire Council. This has been reflected with increased resource in each of the last two financial years to support the service.