

What's happening in the news this week?



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Let's have a look at this week's poster!

21st - 27th April 2025



Should music be part of every school day?





Let's look at this week's story

Singer, Ed Sheeran, has written a letter to UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, asking for more money to support music education in schools. In the letter, Ed asks the government to increase funding for instruments, training, and teachers, among other things. Many famous musicians, including Sir Elton John, Coldplay, Harry Styles and Stormzy, have signed the letter to show their support.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



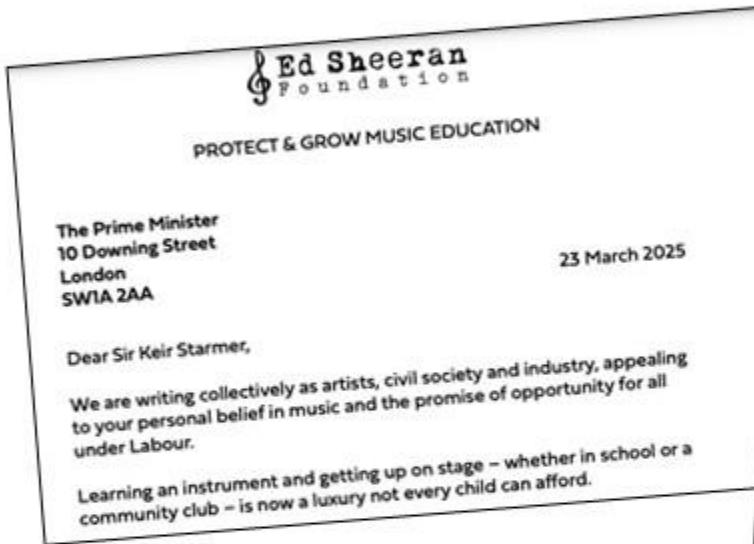
sad despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	angry aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	happy beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	confused addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	excited animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	worried agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	overwhelmed engulfed inundated overburdened overloaded saturated submerged swamped	afraid alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified
guilty ashamed compunctions contrite culpable penitent responsible rueful	jealous bitter covetous desirous envious envying resentful wary	thankful appreciative grateful gratified indebted obliged relieved	shocked astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	disgusted affronted appalled horrified repelled repulsed revolted sickened	inspired activated encouraged exhilarated galvanised influenced motivated	embarrassed ashamed awkward chagrined demeaned discomposed humiliated self-conscious uncomfortable uneasy unsettled	interested absorbed captivated curious engaged enthralled fascinated gripped intrigued riveted

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information below, which shows some of Ed Sheeran's letter.



What is your opinion on Ed's letter?

Have you ever written a letter to someone when you have felt passionate about something?

Music in and out of school should be for all, not a few. We are up against five fights to protect and grow music education and we need you all:

1. FUND MUSIC IN SCHOOLS, LIKE SPORT.

Deliver a Music & Arts Pupil Premium to schools (the Sports Premium is currently £324m); fund extra £32m for Music Hubs each year.

2. CLOSE THE GAPS, MUSICIANS AS MUSIC TEACHERS.

Urgently train 1,000 music teachers to end the 56% fall in recruitment; stop the closures of university music departments, like Cardiff University.

3. LAUNCH UK-WIDE FUND FOR GRASSROOTS MUSIC COLLABORATION.

1/4 of youth music spaces are considering closing, and over 2/3 are only surviving short-term.

4. LAUNCH FAIR AND INDUSTRY-FIT MUSIC APPRENTICESHIPS.

Only 0.5% of apprenticeships are in the creative sector; launch 500 music apprenticeships UK-wide, with new festival apprenticeships and industry readiness support for youth at-risk.

5. DIVERSIFY THE CURRICULUM, INCLUDE INDUSTRY VOICES.

Establish a teacher and industry special task force for a diverse, industry-informed curriculum; remove the Ebacc, include music in the Ofsted report card in England.

We understand that there are many pressures. As artists, civil society and industry, we want to be part of the solution.

We look forward to hearing your reply soon.

Yours faithfully,

Ed Sheeran



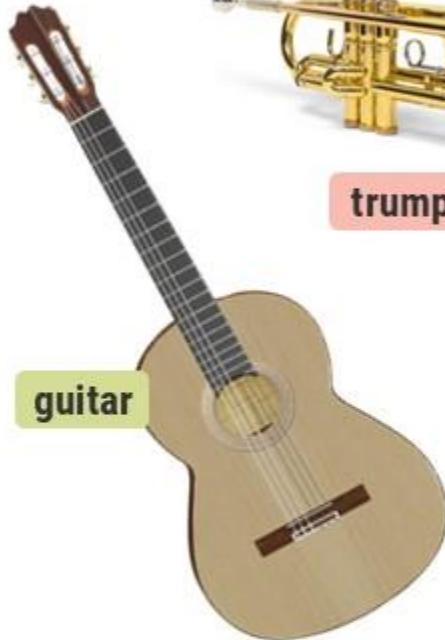
Are there any subjects that you believe should be taught more in school?

What do you think are the benefits of music education?

Resource
one



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of musical instruments you could learn to play!



guitar



trumpet



flute



saxophone



piano



drums



violin



harp



cello



recorder



clarinet

Reflection

Learning an instrument is an amazing skill and something everyone should have the chance to do. Music is such an important part of life; young children are our future musicians and now is the time to learn how to play!



Look at the resource below, which shares some thoughts and ideas about music lessons.

What do you think makes a music lesson enjoyable and memorable? Look at the ideas below. Which do you already see in music lessons? Which would you like more of?

- Time to explore different instruments.
- Opportunities to work together in groups.
- Space for creativity and expressing ideas.
- Listening to a wide variety of music styles.
- Encouraging and supportive atmosphere.



What do you like about music lessons?

Do you prefer using instruments, singing, listening?

What might be some benefits of learning about music?

Reflection

Good music lessons can inspire creativity, build teamwork and encourage exploration. Their impact can last long after the lesson ends.

"I love music because we get to play real instruments, and it feels like being in a band!"

Seth, 8



"Music helps me feel calm when I'm having a busy day. I wish we had it more often!"

Amina, 10



"I like it when we learn about different types of music from around the world. It's fun to hear new sounds!"

Leo, 11



"I love learning and practising songs, I feel so happy and confident when I'm singing, much more than normal!"

Jess, 9





Should music be part of every school day?



Reflection



Music can help us express who we are, connect with others, and explore the world in creative ways that words sometimes can't. Just like maths and reading, music can help us to learn and grow.



Media Literacy

What should you do if sources disagree?



Explanation: Let's explore how to respond when different sources say different things.



Questions to Discuss

- Why might different news sources report this story in different ways?
- What kind of opinions could people have about funding music in schools?
- How can you tell the difference between a fact and an opinion in what you read?

Reflection

When sources disagree, it's important to read carefully, check the facts, and think for yourself before making up your mind.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Activity

Look at a response to the story. Is it for or against the funding?

- What are the main points made?
- Which parts are facts? Which are opinions?
- What extra information could you look for to help you decide what you think?



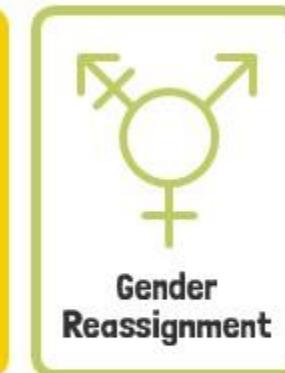
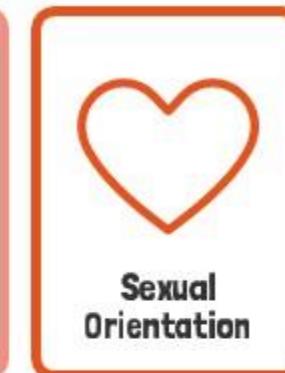
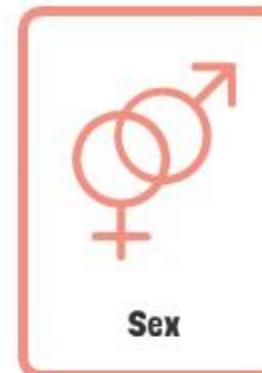
Democracy

Ed Sheeran and other musicians are using their voices to speak up for music education. In our democracy, we can stand up for what we believe in, share ideas, and try to make positive changes.

Protected Characteristics

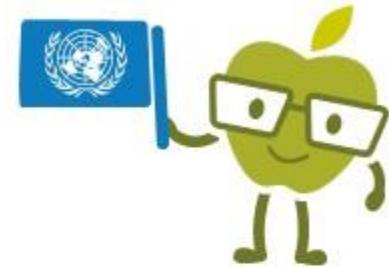


Some children find that music helps them communicate, relax, or express themselves when words are difficult. It's important that every child, no matter their ability, has the same chance to take part in and enjoy music.





UN Rights of the Child



Children have the right to be creative and enjoy new experiences. Adults – both at school and home – should make time for children to enjoy the arts, including singing, exploring instruments, and making music with others.



Useful Vocabulary

Apprenticeship

A job that combines learning with working, so people can develop the skills needed for the job whilst earning money.

'Only 0.5% of apprenticeships are in the creative sector...'

Industry

The people and activities involved in one type of work, like the music industry or building industry.

'As artists, civil society and **industry**, we want to be part of the solution.'

Funding

Money that is given to help pay for things.

In the letter, Ed asks the government to increase **funding** for things like instruments, training and teachers.

Musician

Someone who creates, performs or studies music.

Many famous **musicians**, including Sir Elton John, Coldplay, Harry Styles and Stormzy, have signed the letter to show their support.

Grassroots music collaboration

When musicians and artists who live close to each other work together, to create music and support one another.

'Launch UK-wide fund for grassroots music collaboration.'

Passionate

When you have really strong feelings or are very excited about something.

Have you ever written a letter to someone when you have felt **passionate** about something?

Can you use them in your writing this week?





Should music be part of every school day?

Singer, Ed Sheeran, has written a letter to UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, asking for more money to support music education in schools. In the letter, Ed asks the government to increase funding for instruments, training, and teachers, among other things. Many famous musicians, including Sir Elton John, Coldplay, Harry Styles and Stormzy, have signed the letter to show their support.



- Look at this week's poster, do you know who is on it? It is music artists Ed Sheeran and Stormzy. They are both supporting a campaign to protect and grow music education in school.
- Read the information found on the assembly resource, which shows some of Ed Sheeran's letter. Do you agree with the letter? Why do you think Ed decided to write it? What impact do you feel it might have?
- Are there any other subjects that you would like to see taught more in school?
- Do you enjoy music lessons in school? What other subjects do you like?
- During the school day, when might you encounter music? E.g., assembly, in lessons, singing.
- Watch this week's useful video, showing singer Maisie Peters talking about why she is supporting the campaign. Share your response to her comments.

Reflection

Music can help us express who we are, connect with others, and explore the world in creative ways that words sometimes can't. Just like maths and reading, music can help us to learn and grow.



KS1 focus

What are some of the instruments we could learn to play?



- Reflect on this week's big question, 'Should music be part of every school day?'. What do you think about this? How much is music a part of your school day?
- Let's find out whether anyone in our class plays an instrument! Ask the children to share their experiences of playing an instrument. What instrument do you play? How long have you been playing? Do you have lessons? How does playing the instrument make you feel?
- How much practice do you have to do? Are there any negatives to playing an instrument?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some different instruments that people can learn to play.
- What do you know about any of these instruments? Has anyone seen them in real life before?
- Would you like to learn to play any of these instruments? Which one, and why? What do you think it would be like?
- Do you think if you learned to play one instrument, it would then be easier to learn another? Or would it be more difficult? Why? Share your thoughts.

Reflection

Learning an instrument is an amazing skill and something everyone should have the chance to do. Music is such an important part of life; young children are our future musicians and now is the time to learn how to play!



KS2 focus

What does a good music lesson look like?



- Do you think it is important to learn music in school? Why?
- Think about your favourite music lesson. What made it so enjoyable? As a class, share ideas and put together a list of the top things you think make a great music lesson.
- Do you prefer playing instruments, singing, or listening to music in lessons? Why?
- Should everyone be allowed to choose the instruments they play, or are music lessons a good opportunity to try different ones?
- Do you also like to learn about famous artists and musicians? Why might their stories inspire us?
- What makes music lessons different from other subjects, like maths or English?
- How do you feel in music lessons – excited, calm, nervous, confident?
- Can a good music lesson develop other skills? E.g., teamwork, self-confidence, empathy.
- Look at resource 2, which shares some ideas about what makes a good music lesson. Did you think of the same things? Were there any new ideas? Are there any that could make your music lessons even better?
- Do you think music can help you express your thoughts or feelings in ways that words sometimes can't?

Reflection

Good music lessons can inspire creativity, build teamwork and encourage exploration. Their impact can last long after the lesson ends.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Bring fractions to life in this musical activity! Begin by clapping a steady four-beat pattern to introduce the idea of a musical bar – think of it as a whole that can be divided into parts. Explain that a whole note lasts for 4 beats, a half note for 2 beats, and a quarter note for 1 beat.

Using clapping, or simple instruments like tambourines, triangles, or drums, create your own rhythm patterns that add up to 4 beats (e.g., 1 + 1 + 2, or 2 + 2, or 1 + 1 + 1 + 1).

In pairs or small groups, practise and perform your patterns to the class, who can listen and count the beats.

Too easy? Try the following challenges!

- How many different combinations can you make that total 4 beats?
- What happens if you try to create a 6-beat or 8-beat pattern?
- Can you spot any patterns or repeats in your rhythms?

Option 2

Use the [BBC World Music Archive](#) and listen to traditional music from different countries around the world.

- Can you locate the country on a world map?
- Discuss the instruments, rhythms, and feelings the music creates.
- Compare styles from different countries and cultures, and reflect on how music can tell us about people's lives and traditions.

Challenge: write or draw a short response to your favourite piece of music.



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Name that sound!

Have a look in your school music cupboard, and gather a few musical instruments. Once you have selected some instruments, play a game of 'name that sound'! This is where you play an instrument, hidden behind or under something so that it can't be seen, and then try and guess what the instrument is. Alternatively, you can play the same game via [this link](#)!

Option 2

Create a class band!

Gather some different instruments together (ideally enough for everyone in your class to have one each) and create some music together!

As a class, choose a song you all love and listen to it carefully, thinking about the rhythm, pace and feel of the song. Perhaps you could choose one of Ed Sheeran's songs! Once you have listened to the song, try and play along as a class band! Maybe you could think of a special name for your band too!



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvgwyj984720

This week's useful video

Singer Maisie Peters

<https://youtu.be/f-3ZdonRZUc?si=QQvlj6P5HcvDFNTW>

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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See you later, alligator! In a while, crocodile!

People on a sunny street in Everglades National Park in Florida, USA, were very shocked to see a crocodile and an alligator having a little bit of a disagreement! The two reptiles were caught on video, which was then shared online. 'I couldn't believe what I was seeing!' said one passerby. Everglades National Park is the only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles live side by side in the wild. It is thought that the



Pictured: An alligator in Florida.
Source: Canva.

cross crocodile and angry alligator were having a little battle for the best spot in the sunshine! These sharp-toothed animals can often be mistaken for each other, as they both have long snouts, bodies and tails, but they do have many differences, such as their colour, size, snout shape, and the way their teeth sit when their mouths are closed.

Did you know that crocodiles and alligators both swallow rocks to help them digest their food?



Pictured: A crocodile in Florida.
Source: Canva.

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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@HelpPicture

I'm feeling blue today, but I pink I'll be ok!

Did you know that wearing bright colours can help boost your mood and make you feel happier?

'Dopamine dressing' is the idea that wearing certain colours, patterns or styles can boost your mood and make you feel happy. Dopamine is a special chemical in the brain linked to happiness. By wearing clothes and bright colours that spark joy, your brain then produces a 'dopamine release' which can make you feel more positive and confident. Colours such as pink, yellow, orange and green are all 'high-energy colours' but of course everyone has their own



Pictured: Colourful clothes can boost your mood!
Source: Canva.

favourites! 'Bright bold colours always feel better on gloomy days, so be your own sunshine. Yellow is a favourite colour of mine and a big mood booster,' says artist Kerry Jones, who loves to wear clothes that make her feel cheerful.

How do bright and colourful clothes make you feel?

Should stadiums be used for more than just football?



Yes, because it is such a big place so you should use it for everything!
Daniel B

Food To Go!

Tesco, one of the UK's biggest supermarkets, is testing a new idea to help reduce food waste. In some of its Express stores, it is giving away food with yellow 'Reduced to Clear' stickers for free! This happens near closing time, which is at 9:30pm, and only in a few trial stores. The food is close to its use-by-date and would usually be sold at a lower price, but now it is being offered for £0. The aim is to stop food going to waste and help Tesco reach its net zero goals. Tesco wants to cut its food waste in half by 2025. The food will first be offered to charities and



Pictured: A trolley full of food in a supermarket. Source: Canva.



Pictured: Zero Waste. Source: Canva.

Tesco colleagues, and anything left can then be taken home by customers. Tesco already gives away millions of meals each month to local groups and organisations. A Tesco spokesperson said, 'This trial, in a small number of our Express stores, will allow customers to take any remaining yellow-stickered items for free at the end of the day, after they have first been offered to charities and colleagues.'

Do you think all supermarkets should do this?

Is it a good idea to give food away instead of throwing it out?

Empowering Communities

Nihal Tammana from Monroe, in New Jersey, USA, is being celebrated for his environmental work, as his non-profit organisation, has recycled over 625,000 batteries! When he was 10 years old, he decided that something had to be done, after hearing a news report about a lithium-ion battery exploding at a waste disposal plant! He then learned about the environmental risks of batteries being left in landfills. As a result, he set up Recycle My Battery. In the last five years, they have provided over 1,000 battery bins to schools, libraries, and businesses, to encourage people to recycle and not bin their batteries. Recycle My Battery posted, 'Don't Trash Batteries! Recycle for a Better Tomorrow! Batteries power our lives, but improper disposal harms our

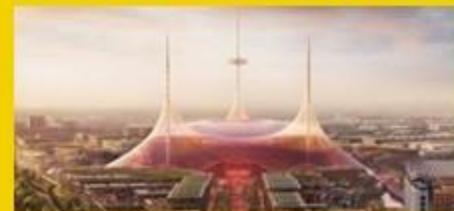


Pictured: Recycle My Battery members Aaditri, Aniketh, Nitra, Dhriti, and Ayra collecting from South Brunswick Public Library. Source: Recycle My Battery on X.

planet. Instead of tossing them in the trash, recycle them responsibly!' Nihal and the Recycle My Battery members also say that recycling batteries reduces toxic waste, protects the environment, and conserves valuable materials. 'If I can make the Earth a better place to live, you can! If you can, we all can!', encouraged Nihal.

Do you know where your nearest battery recycling bin is?

Should stadiums be used for more than just football?



Yes, they should be used to hold events that bring communities together.
Jude

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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@HelpPicture

TAKE HOME

21st - 27th
April



Should music be part of every school day?



In the news this week

Singer, Ed Sheeran, has written a letter to UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, asking for more money to support music education in schools. In the letter, Ed asks the government to increase funding for instruments, training, and teachers, among other things. Many famous musicians, including Sir Elton John, Coldplay, Harry Styles, and Stormzy, have signed the letter to show their support.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What type of music do you like to listen to? Ask someone at home – do you listen to the same type of music?
- How do music lessons make you feel? What parts do you enjoy/not enjoy?
- Do you think enough time at school is spent on music lessons?
- Have you ever learned, or would you like to learn to play an instrument?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

