## Music Express FAQs

### What is Music Express?

*Music Express* is a complete resource for primary music teaching, available in print and online.Written by leading experts in primary music education, *Music Express* has quality and engaging music lessons that progress from Early Years to the end of Key Stage 2. It is easy to use for teachers with little confidence in music, and allows flexibility for music specialists.

Find out more about what *Music Express* has to offer in the [Music Express Programme Overview](https://resources.collins.co.uk/Wesbite%20images/MusicExpress/Music%20Express%20Programme%20Overview.pdf). To see *Music Express Online* in action, watch our [Take a Tour Video](https://youtu.be/nCikOn-xOYE?list=PLIRlh3tVUOutPmScU3l6YH3tx-HW7zrds).

### Do I need to be able to read music to use *Music Express*?

No. *Music Express* has full audio support for learning songs and music, so music reading is not required. Elements of staff notation and other notations are introduced throughout the course, and there are optional instrumental parts for some pieces, but knowledge of staff notation is not assumed.

### I do read music. What will *Music Express* give me?

*Music Express* offers a great supply of resources to support your teaching and school music-making. It has songs in a range of styles, recordings of classical, folk and new music for pupils to listen to and study, images and displays to support learning and capture the imagination, ideas for activities to extend a lesson, and collections of warm-ups and skill builders.

If you are leading instrumental teaching, you could try our beginner ukulele course, *Ukulele Magic,* which is included in the Music Express online subscription.

### How does *Music Express* support the curriculum?

*Music Express* provides a completely new set of teaching activities to support the revised English National Curriculum from September 2014. *Music Express* also fully supports the National Curriculum for Wales and for Northern Ireland as well as the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.

By using *Music Express* as the basis of a scheme of work, schools can ensure that they are fulfilling the aims for musical learning stated in the English National Curriculum:

**The English National Curriculum states ‘That all pupils: perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.’**

*Music Express includes many examples of music styles and genres from different times and places, including the classical Western canon. These are explored through the language of music via active listening, performing and composing activities, which enable understanding of the context and genre. Examples include vocal melodies from Medieval times, Tudor court music, Romantic ballet music, Twentieth century pop, as well as traditional and classical forms from across the globe.*

**The English National Curriculum states ‘That all pupils: learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.’**

*Music Express provides a classroom-based, participatory and inclusive approach to music learning. Throughout the scheme, children are actively involved in using and developing their singing voices, using body percussion and whole body actions, and learning to handle and play classroom instruments effectively to create and express their own and others’ music. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have opportunities to explore sounds, listen actively, compose and perform. In some age 7–11 units the class ensemble can be extended using additional scores which are available for those children learning to play non-classroom instruments.*

**The English National Curriculum states ‘That all pupils: understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.'**

*Music Express builds experience and develops understanding of the dimensions (elements) of music throughout the scheme. Each unit has as its focus one process such as performance or composition, or one dimension, such as pitch, but the learning progresses within the context of all the inter-related processes and dimensions of music.*

*A wide variety of notations, including picture, graphic, rhythm and staff notation are integrated, wherever appropriate, with practical music-making activities throughout the scheme. Notations are used progressively to promote understanding and use of the representation of sound in symbols by all children.*

### Does *Music Express* link with other areas of the primary curriculum?

Yes. Download our [cross-curricular document](https://resources.collins.co.uk/Wesbite%20images/MusicExpress/Music%20Express%20Cross-curricular%20document.pdf) to see exactly how Music Express supports learning in other subjects.

### I want to subscribe to *Music Express Online*. Which subscription do I qualify for?

If you are a primary school, you can purchase our **school subscription**, which offers complete access to Music Express for all teachers in your school: each registered teacher will be provided with their own login so they can personalise their experience.

Our **individual subscription** is for independent music professionals providing teaching in a freelance capacity, and offers single-user access.

### My Music Hub is interested in *Music Express*. Do you offer packages for Music Hubs?

We don’t offer a specific package for Music Hubs, but please contact our customer services team to discuss your requirements and we would be happy to put together a bespoke quotation based on your needs:

education@harpercollins.co.uk

+44 (0)1484 668148

### I use the songs in the old book edition of *Music Express*. Will I find them here?

Yes. *Music Express* was completely updated for the new curriculum, with entirely new lessons and songs. However, we realize that there were some great favourites in the old editions of the book, so while you won’t find the lessons from these books, the songs are in the Song Bank. Just like the new songs, they have on-screen lyrics to sing along with.

### Do you offer INSET training on *Music Express*?

Yes. Whether you're new to music teaching or a seasoned teacher looking for fresh ways to use Music Express, our experienced music INSET leaders are on hand to help. We are delighted to offer half-day, full-day and twilight INSET sessions to suit your needs.

For more information or to book a session, please contact our customer services team:

education@harpercollins.co.uk

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### Who should I contact for more information?

For general customer support and enquiries, please contact:

education@harpercollins.co.uk

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