



# Amber Music Awards

Application guidelines and new application checklist

**Please read carefully before starting an application for a Music Award.**

Music Awards are open to all blind or partially sighted children and young people up to the age of 18, who may also have other disabilities or special educational needs.

You can apply for an Amber Music Award to fund:

- Instrumental and singing lessons
- Music therapy sessions for those with life-limiting conditions
- The purchase of musical instruments or items of specialist musical technology
- Tickets and assistance with attending concerts
- Travel and accommodation to access opportunities for making music

Each Music Award can fund up to three school terms or a maximum 36 lessons or sessions across the school year.

\* It should be noted that for new applicants it is usual for the Trustees to offer a one term grant with the request that a reapplication for further funding be made to the next meeting with a short report from the music teacher on progress made.

## Amber Music Award Criteria

- Applications will be accepted for children and young people aged from 0–18 years (funding cannot be provided after their 19th birthday)
- All applications should be made by a parent/carer or young person (from age 16), but can be supported by a Support Worker or Teacher
- Applications for instruments or software must include prices and supplier's details
- Applications for music lessons or music therapy sessions will only be considered when Amber has received details of the teacher's or therapist's qualifications, experience and DBS number
- In some cases, the Amber Trust will not meet a financial request in full, and applicants will therefore be required to raise the balance from other sources. They can, of course, use the Amber pledge to encourage other funding.
- Music Award offers will be held open for six month period, after which they will lapse and a new application would need to be made to the Trust.
- The Amber Trust will not fund retrospectively

- The Trustees decision is final
- Anonymised data pertaining to children and families may be used to inform Amber planning and provision of awards and services, and to help us understand the range of musical interests and abilities within the population of children and young people across the UK.

## Making an application

Applications should be made using the [online form](#). You should answer each question as fully as possible. There is no function to save a part-completed form so please make sure you have to hand all the information you need to complete the form in one go. Once the application has been submitted you will receive an emailed copy of the form for your records. You will also receive an email from Amber to let you know it has been received successfully. If you need to make any amendments or add in further information at a later date these can be emailed to [info@ambertrust.org](mailto:info@ambertrust.org).

As outlined in the Criteria, all Music Awards are made at the sole discretion of the Trustees, and their decision is final.

At Amber we know that hourly rates charged for music lessons and music therapy can vary widely. In order to provide a guide to the levels considered appropriate by Amber, the Trustees have developed a matrix of hourly rates to act as a guide for applicants when applying for a Music Award, and the teachers and therapists whom it is proposed should work with them. This is shown below:

TEACHER	Little experience	Some experience	Very experienced	+ Significant visual impairment experience
No formal qualifications	£15	£20	£25	add £5
Certificate level	£20	£25	£30	add £5
Teaching diploma or degree	£25	£30	£35	add £5
+ Visual impairment qualification - add £5	add £5	add £5	add £5	add £10

THERAPIST	Little experience	Some experience	Very experienced	+ Significant visual impairment experience
Must be registered music therapist with BAMT	£30	£35	£40	add £5

## Re-applying for a Music Award

Music Awards are not automatically renewed. You will need to re-apply for further funding for any child or young person who has previously been supported by Amber. To do this you must apply online again where you will be asked if your child has previously received a Music Award. By clicking yes, you will be taken through the re-application process.

It is very important that all the questions are answered as fully as possible to help Amber understand what impact the Music Award is having on the child's musical progress, as well as his or her day-to-day life.

## \*Important Information for re-applicants\*

When making a further application to Amber for funding it is very important that a report from the teacher or therapist accompanies the re-application. If we do not receive a report in time for a meeting it can result in funding being delayed or a reapplication for a Music Award being refused.

## CHECKLIST for applications

Please use this checklist as a guide when gathering the information you will need to complete the [online application form](#).

<b>Information about you</b> Contact details Full postal address Email Telephone details Relationship to the child/young person	
<b>An additional contact if required</b>	
<b>Information about your child</b> Name and date of birth Details about their eye condition Details of any other relevant medical conditions Details of any additional educational needs The name of their school	
<b>What are you applying for? (one section only)</b>	
<b>1. Music lessons</b> What instrument Name of teacher/music service Date when lessons commence Length of lesson Number of lessons Cost per lesson Total funding requested from Amber	
<b>2. Music Therapy</b> Name of therapist Date when sessions commence Length of session Number of sessions Cost per session Total funding requested from Amber	
<b>3. For purchase/hire of instruments, technology or concert tickets</b>	
Name and contact details of supplier Details of instrument/technology/tickets Price estimate	

**Additional information required when applying for a Music Award**

Please note most of the questions require simple answers and many have drop down selection boxes to help you complete the form quickly.

Finally, at the end of the form there are free text boxes where you should include more information about your child's needs, the impact of their diagnosis and the value of music to them. You should include details of your child's previous experience of music and their current level of ability.

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