



## School Funded Ensembles

**This document must be read under the assumption that a School Funded Ensemble will be lead by an EMS Ensemble Leader.**

### Q. What is a School Funded Ensemble?

A. 'School Funded Ensemble' is the term EMS uses for an ensemble taking place in a school, with an EMS teacher leading or assisting, whereby the school fund the ensemble themselves. The school may cover the costs of the ensemble using reserve funds, or by recouping the cost from parents. If the school uses EMS staff to either lead or assist with the ensemble, this will be included in your termly school bill in line with our [Service Level Agreement](#). EMS offer other options for ensemble provision; 'Kick Start Ensembles' and 'Tutti Ensembles'.

### Q. Why should there be ensembles in our school?

A. Ensemble playing is a fantastic way to support and enhance the music provision in your school. Pupils improve their playing more effectively when playing an ensemble, as well as it improving their confidence, sight reading and general musicianship skills. On top of these (and many more great benefits), playing in an ensemble is loads of fun!

### Q. What is the school expected to provide?

The most important thing the school is to provide is support in the running and general administration of the ensemble. We expect the school to be able to provide a suitable space for the ensemble rehearsals to take place in, music stands, access to a photocopier, help in promoting the ensemble within their school and to be encouraging towards the pupils taking part. The school may also wish to provide performance opportunities throughout the school year (assemblies, Christmas/Summer Fair etc.). If the Ensemble Leader is required for a performance outside of regular rehearsal time, this must be requested via an EMS103e (New or Ad Hoc Provision) form. The school must also provide a named contact for the EMS teacher to maintain good communication with throughout the duration of their deployment within the school.

### Q. When will the ensemble take place?

A. Rehearsals would usually take place either before or after school, or at lunch/break time. There will be an average of 10 rehearsals per term - 30 per year - and weeks must be agreed in advance with the school via an EMS202 (Teacher Timetable).

### Q. How will the ensemble be monitored?

A. The EMS Ensemble Leader will keep a weekly register and, with the help of the school, chase any absences. Any repeated, unexplained absences may lead to pupils losing their place in the ensemble.

'Ensemble Support Visits' are undertaken by the EMS Ensemble Development Lead, in which school ensembles are observed to ensure that high quality, inclusive music making is taking place. This also



gives the Ensemble Leader an opportunity to seek support if and where needed. Follow up visits may also be requested.

Q. What happens if a rehearsal has to be cancelled?

A. If the school needs to cancel a rehearsal (eg. because of an INSET day), they must give 10 school days' notice (in line with our [Service Level Agreement](#)). If schools are unable to provide 10 schools days' notice then they will be invoiced for the time and the teacher will be paid for the missed rehearsal. If the EMS Ensemble Leader has to cancel a rehearsal (eg. if they call in sick) then they must inform EMS and the school before 8:30am on the day of the rehearsal. The school must then inform the parents of the ensemble members and the rehearsal will be made up in line with the [SLA](#).

Q. How do I request an EMS teacher to undertake Ensemble Provision in my school?

A. Schools who wish to obtain the services of an EMS teacher to provide ensemble leading/assisting must complete an EMS103e (New or Ad Hoc Provision Request form). For additional support please contact Caroline Swan (Ensemble Development Lead) - SwanC@ealing.gov.uk

***For the full Terms & Conditions of all Ealing Music Service provision – please refer to our [Service Level Agreement](#).***