

a summary for young people of the full report

October
2015

Music in Gloucestershire

your music making and learning, your views:



Produced by Make Music Gloucestershire, the county's music education hub, on behalf of its partners including schools, independent music educators, and the following organisations...

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www.makemusicgloucestershire.org.uk

What is this about and why should I be interested?

If you're into music - whether you listen, play, sing or perform - you know better than anyone else what gets you fired up about actually learning and making music.

We're not just talking about music lessons: we mean anything that will get you making music, whoever you are, whatever music you're into.

This report is about what young people in Gloucestershire thought about making and learning music here when we asked them in March and April 2015.

But it's just the beginning of a conversation with you about your music education*. We want to find ways to continue to hear, and respond, to what you have to say - and we need your help to get that right - see page 4 'How can I find out more or get involved?'

So if you're into music, you could have a say in the future of music making for young people here in Gloucestershire.



don't let the 'education' word put you off - we just mean making music, and in doing that learning music, in whatever way you choose

Who did you ask for their views and how did they give them?

180
people
involved,
aged
11-18:

Workshops in 6 secondary schools

Severn Vale, All Saints Academy - Cheltenham, Sir William Romney, Deer Park - Cirencester, Belmont Special School - Cheltenham, Alternative Provision School, Joy's Green - Forest of Dean

94
pupils

An online survey

We approached all secondary schools to promote the survey to their students - people from the following schools took part:

Pitville School 41.9%*, Balcarras School 17.4%, Tewkesbury School - 12.8%

Other schools who responded (1-2 people from each): Archway, Pates, St Peter's RC High, Ribston Hall; Bournside School, Beaufort Co-operative Academy, and Beech Green Primary School, Chosen Hill School, Cleeve School, Farmors School, The High School for Girls, Maidenhill School, Prospects School, Thomas Keble School, Sir Thomas Rich's School, Winchcombe School

86
pupils



* of those who responded

What did you tell us?



Overall: could do better!

In answer to...
“How easy is it to make/learn music in Gloucestershire?”
We scored 6

Music in school...
“I enjoy it” - 57% (yet important to 84%)
“It’s OK” - 31%
“I don’t enjoy it” - 10%

YOU SAID...

1. Music is important, and you want to have a voice

- 84% said music’s important to you
- 56% - want to give their views on music education in future

Yet... your passion isn’t met with suitable opportunities

- 52% said you make music
- Nearly a third of you feel you missed out on making music
- Just over half say there’s something you’d like to do in music, but don’t/can’t

2. Music in school – it’s OK, but it could be better

- Only half of you say you learned in school
- 16% said you were self taught
- Only 15% started learning at secondary school age

3. No surprise – you said cost and time are your main barriers, but also, one third said the reasons were either...

- ‘I don’t feel able’
- ‘there aren’t opportunities in the type of music I want to make’
- ‘I’ve never found anything I’d like to do in music’
- ‘lack of places to make music’

4. Teaching yourself, and methods you have control over, are important...

- 16% of you are self-taught
- 16% use music technology; 12% are rapping & beat-boxing
- More than a third are singers

Compared with: 19% strings; 19% piano/keyboard; 9% woodwind; 9% brass

Music is very important since it helps express emotions and everyone should learn it

*Year 8,
Pitville School*

Social class and finance are the biggest reason that many kids do not learn an instrument, lessons cost a lot of money and many cannot afford this and so do not ever get the chance to be involved

*Year 11,
Fairford School*

I don’t believe there are enough opportunities in Gloucester for young people to develop new skills or existing ones and I’d like to see more of that

*Year 11,
Beaufort School*

5. You want a wide range of opportunities, at all ages

It's important to you that you have a chance to try different ways of making music and different instruments, at all ages. And teaching yourself, or learning in a group is important - in terms of how you want to learn:

Teaching myself - 20%; learn in group - 20%; one-to-one lessons - 14%.

6. You say schools are a place where most people are likely to get involved in music, but you'd like them to do more...

- You said you know that they have an important role outside classroom music lessons – including giving you chances to perform, and other music opportunities. You think that music is important for all sorts of things like building confidence and creating a good school atmosphere
- But you want schools to encourage more young to get involved, in wider range of activities
- One of the suggestions that came up a lot was for afterschool music clubs involving instruments and music tech

What happens next?

That's up to you. We've circulated this document, and the full report, to schools. We've also shared it on our website, newsletters and social media. We hope it's reached a wide audience of young people, parents and teachers and that you'll want to be involved in our next steps, which could include:

- Finding out from those who said they'd like to be involved in the future (an amazing 56% of those who completed the online survey), and others, how you'd like to do that, perhaps...

A young leaders programme including training... music ambassadors... youth council or advisory group... online forum... any, all, or none of these – we'd like to hear from you on how you want to be involved

- **Involving you in the next steps of re-imagining Make Music Gloucestershire's future shape and vision**
- Finding out what's worked in other areas – eg in London, there's a 'Wired4Music' youth council, which led a 'youth voice in music education' summit recently

How can I find out more or get involved?

Sign up to the enews

Visit www.makemusicgloucestershire.org.uk and click on the 'eNewsletter signup' button – then choose 'Student Views'. We promise we won't bombard you and will only send occasional emails about how you can give your views or get involved. The first one will be coming soon!

Drop us an email

If you have any specific queries or things you want to make sure we know about, in relation to your music making and learning.

Read the full report

Visit www.makemusicgloucestershire.org.uk and click on the 'Young People' button, then the 'What young people said' button on the left.

More about the organisations involved

Make Music Gloucestershire – the county's music education hub. We're a network of schools, individuals and organisations working together to make sure music education reaches as many children and young people as possible, and makes a difference to their lives and futures.

Gloucestershire County Council's Participation Team including the Ambassadors for Vulnerable Children and Young People - young people aged 16-22 years - trained in participatory consultation techniques who've experienced County Council services. They helped devise, and carried out, the research.

Gloucestershire County Council – which is responsible for the Hub.

All the current and future Hub partners