

# Reimagining Music Education

# The Evolving Role of Music Services

Music education is no longer confined to traditional instruments and methods. Today, Music Services are uniquely positioned to lead a transformation in accessibility, inclusion, and student engagement. With growing evidence that music supports academic achievement, mental well-being, and social development, the need to extend these benefits to all students has never been greater.

This case study explores how innovative music education tools like CMPSR joystick controller, Swipe music app, and Arrownote's accessible music notation are enabling Music Services to reach more students, empower teachers, and achieve measurable impact. By leveraging accessible music technology, Music Services can support the high-volume, wide-reach agenda while improving outcomes for students and educators alike.

## The Challenges Facing Music Services

Despite the recognised value of music education, Music Services face persistent challenges:

### Accessibility Barriers

- Many traditional instruments and methods are inaccessible to students with physical, cognitive, or sensory disabilities.
- Inclusive education requires adaptable tools that cater to diverse needs.

### Engagement Gaps

- Teachers often struggle to engage disengaged or neurodivergent students.
- Group music-making activities can be overwhelming for students with different abilities.

### Limited Resources

- Tight budgets and staff shortages limit the ability to invest in specialist tools or training.

### Demonstrating Impact

- Music Services need robust data to showcase their impact to funders and stakeholders, but collecting and analysing this data can be resource-intensive.

# Actionable Strategies for Transforming Music Education

Music Services can adopt the following strategies to overcome these challenges and maximise their impact:

## **Integrate Accessible Tools**

- Incorporate adaptive instruments like CMPSR that enable students of all abilities to create music.
- Use Arrownote to simplify music notation and make it accessible to non-verbal learners.

## **Empower Educators**

- Provide training to non-specialist teachers on using inclusive music tools.
- Simplify lesson delivery with pre-designed curricula and resources.

## **Measure and Share Impact**

- Implement easy-to-use evaluation frameworks to collect data on student engagement and progression.
- Share insights with stakeholders to demonstrate the value of music programs.

# Trailblazers: A Case Study in Inclusion and Impact

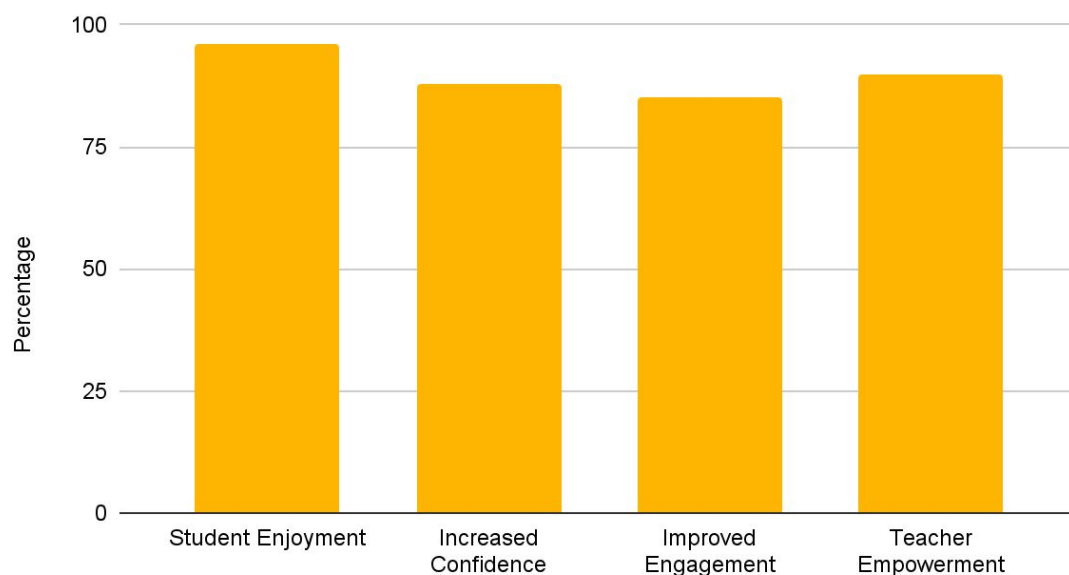
Project Overview: The Trailblazers program introduced CMPSR, Swipe, and Arrownotes to six SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) settings across Manchester and Derbyshire. The project aimed to:

- Increase accessibility for students with disabilities.
- Foster engagement and confidence through music.
- Empower teachers with intuitive tools and resources.

## Expanded Participation

- Reached 162 students, including 68 core participants across 41 sessions.
- 96% of students reported enjoying playing an instrument.

## Student & Educator Feedback



## Improved Engagement

- Students who had never participated in music lessons became active contributors.
- Teachers reported increased confidence and willingness to engage among students

### Empowered Educators

- Teachers gained confidence in using CMPSR and Arrownotes, integrating them into their teaching practices.
- Staff noted how the tools reduced barriers to participation and fostered inclusive group dynamics

### Data-Driven Insights

- Regular check-ins and feedback loops provided actionable data on student progress and engagement.
- Visual tools and reflective exercises allowed teachers to track incremental improvements in rhythm, composition, and confidence.

***“One of the students normally never engages with music, today he has been fully engaged”***

*SEND Specialist*

## How CMPSR, Swipe, and Arrownotes Help Music Services

These tools are designed to seamlessly integrate into existing music programs, addressing the specific challenges faced by Music Services:

- **CMPSR:** An intuitive, accessible music controller adaptable to any student’s abilities.
- **Swipe:** An inclusive app that simplifies music-making through touch and gesture-based inputs.
- **Arrownotes:** A visual, colour-coded notation system that makes music theory accessible to all learners.

By using these tools, Music Services can:

- Increase accessibility and participation.
- Support large-scale music programs without requiring specialist staff.
- Collect and analyse impact data to improve programming and secure funding.

# Who are Digit Music?

We are on a mission to make music accessible and engaging for everyone, regardless of your skill level or personal circumstance. By blending cutting-edge technology with hands-on teacher support, we help primary schools across the UK run fun, inclusive music sessions that ignite students' passion for creativity. Our approach removes the intimidation factor of traditional instruments and supports students to create the music they love in minutes.

## How we can help

For primary school teachers, our easy-to-follow resources and training mean you can lead vibrant music lessons with total confidence - even if you've never picked up an instrument in your life. The result? Dramatically reduced planning time, fewer logistical headaches, and happier classes. Pupils, meanwhile, are free to experiment, explore, and collaborate using contemporary genres they already love - think Rap, Garage, or Drum & Bass - ensuring music class becomes a highlight of their week. And they can even take the app home to perform with their family and friends.

## Get in contact

Ready to bring this new approach to your primary school music programme? For more details, drop us an email at [hello@digitmusic.co.uk](mailto:hello@digitmusic.co.uk) or visit our [website](#). Together, let's set a new tempo for whole-class music lessons one where every teacher can shine and every pupil can take centre stage!

