

Services For **Education**

**EDUCATION SPECIALIST
COMMENTARY AND
EXPERT OPINION FOR
THE MEDIA**



ABOUT SERVICES FOR EDUCATION

Services For Education employs more than 200 staff delivering music tuition to children, and expert training and development to teaching and school support staff. It's annual income was £6.9m (Y/E August 2022). Part-funded by the Arts Council, England it also has its own fund-raising and subsidised commercial operations.

Our Music Service is the go-to place for music provision in Birmingham and we work with 32,000 children each week across the city.

As a multi-award-winning provider, we offer a comprehensive programme of professional development and school improvement for teaching and support staff, school leaders and governors across the EYFS, primary and secondary phases and special schools.



- **Services For Education's Music Service**, one of the largest in the country, works with 93% of Birmingham schools and each week teaches music to nearly 32,000 children – as well as running 112 free ensembles. It provides 27,000 musical instruments free-of-charge so all children have access to playing and enjoying music together and its Youth Proms at Symphony Hall give 4,000 young musicians the opportunity to perform to an audience of more than 10,000. It also runs music schools, has a world music department, provides private music tuition to all ages as well as working with partners to deliver music and choral opportunities to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

• **Services For Education's School Support Service** provides expert training and development to teaching and support staff in nearly 600 schools in the West Midlands and increasingly across England, to improve practice and ensure teachers are best equipped to respond to developments in curriculum and policy. As a leading provider of safeguarding education, Services For Education works with 400 schools delivering training in-person and on-line. It also delivers innovative programmes to support the physical and emotional health of children and young people through Health for Life and other community-based activity.



OUR TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERTS

Services For Education is able to provide journalists, columnists and editors with expert opinion, commentary and background in those areas detailed on the next page.

Note: the grid and the list of experts is in alphabetical order.

This resource can be accessed through David Clarke FCIPR on 07808 735255.

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ALTERNATIVE PROVISION * AND ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS	Kirsty Jones
CYBER (ONLINE) BULLYING	Lucie Welch
ENGLISH, LITERACY AND READING	Emma Mudge
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LEADERSHIP IN SCHOOLS	Kirsty Jones
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MUSIC AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)	Sophie Gray
MUSIC AS A CAREER	Stuart Birnie, Charlotte Buxton and Adam Hickman
MUSIC EDUCATION: BENEFITS AND IMPACT	Stuart Birnie
ON-LINE TEACHING OF MUSIC	Paul Douglas
PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHE)	Jo Perrin
PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSESSMENT	Denise Harris and Emma Mudge



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS	Simone Whitehouse
TEACHER TRAINING	Emma Mudge, Kirsty Jones and Lucie Welch
SAFEGUARDING	Emma Mudge, Jo Perrin Kirsty Jones and Lucie Welch
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT	Emma Mudge and Kirsty Jones
WORLD MUSIC IN SCHOOLS	Harjit Singh

*I.E. EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN UNABLE TO ACCESS MAINSTREAM SCHOOLING DUE TO EXCLUSION, BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES, ILLNESS *ET AL*

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STUART BIRNIE

HEAD OF THE MUSIC SERVICE

Stuart joined Birmingham Music Service in 1991 – prior to becoming the charity Services For Education – as a brass teacher, then Advanced Skills teacher and following that Assistant Head to the Music Service. He became Head of the Music Service in 2018 and is responsible for leading the Birmingham Music Education Partnership Music Education Hub. This is a pivotal role in disseminating DfE funding through partner organisations in the city and delivering on Arts Council core and extension roles as set out in the National Plan for Music Education.



Stuart has a passion to reach as many areas of the city as possible and works closely with external partner organisations to reach children and young people with additional needs and those living in areas of disadvantage through project led activity. Stuart is also vice chair of Birmingham Creates – Birmingham Cultural Education Partnership.

CHARLOTTE BUXTON

DEPUTY HEAD OF MUSIC SERVICE

Charlotte began her teaching career in 2003 working for Bromley Youth Music Trust as a Licenced teacher. After graduating with a BMus(Hons) degree in 2005, Charlotte was appointed as a full-time member of staff at BYMT. Over 11 years Charlotte progressed through the ranks and ultimately held the post of Wider Opportunities Coordinator and Assistant Head of Woodwind for the borough.

Charlotte joined Services For Education in September 2014 as Head of Woodwind and enjoyed five years leading a vibrant department and teaching across the city.

She was appointed Deputy Head of Music Service and Head of Ensembles in September 2019 and has since spearheaded exciting collaborations with international artists Nicola Benedetti and Jess Gillam whilst leading the ensemble system into the digital age to maintain provision throughout the pandemic. She was the inaugural recipient of the Music and Drama Education Awards Gold Star Award in March 2021 for 'formidable impact and reach, with a remarkable ambition and vision'.



PAUL DOUGLAS

HEAD OF SFE MUSIC SCHOOL, DEPUTY HEAD OF MUSIC SERVICE

Paul studied music at the University of Hull before embarking on a varied portfolio career, including projects management, songwriting, performing, studio recording, and conducting at venues all over the UK, as well as many parts of Europe and the USA.

Paul joined the Music Service in 2006 as a brass, piano and keyboard teacher, as well as obtaining his PGCE.

Paul was Head of Ensembles from 2014-2019, and has been the Head of the highly successful and growing SFE Music School since its inception in 2018.



SOPHIE GRAY

HEAD OF INCLUSION

Sophie Gray has been in music education for the past 20 years working primarily in special schools/alternative provision and with those with complex disabilities.

Sophie is Head of Inclusion, and teacher at Services For Education's Music Service, and link tutor on the PgCert in Sounds of Intent which investigates and promotes the musical development of children and young people with learning difficulties - although the system can also be used effectively with adults.

She is also currently studying for an MA in Severe, Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (SPMLD) at the University of Birmingham. Sophie is also co-author of Count Me In!, published in 2023. She has always believed in the power of music for everyone at any age, from any background, but especially for those with the most complex disabilities.



HELEN GRUNDY

EDUCATION ADVISER

Helen qualified with a first-class honours degree in English and Education Studies in 1998. A significant amount of her degree was spent studying in Amsterdam under the Hogeschool Holland, adding a TESOL element to her degree and enabling study and understanding of international approaches to education. Helen's teaching career then took place across Staffordshire in infant, first and primary schools, taking on various roles in subject leadership, as SENCo and SLT, and achieving the NCTL Leadership Pathways award.

Noted successful practice resulted in Helen becoming a Leading Maths Teacher, supporting colleagues across the county. This became a role that she increasingly enjoyed and led naturally to a role in consultancy and advising.

Helen joined Services For Education in 2015 as an Education Adviser. She enjoys her roles as a Manager of the ECT (NQT) Appropriate Body on behalf of Birmingham City Council, Manager of the Health for Life programme and maths adviser (primary).



DENISE HARRIS

EDUCATION ADVISER

Denise has 25+ years of experience as a qualified teacher (B.Ed., Hons) working in schools and an Education Action Zone. She became a local authority primary consultant in 2003 with a focus on mathematics and assessment. From 2009 she worked with Edge Hill University as an Every Child Counts (ECC) Teacher leader to deliver a suite of early maths intervention programmes through which she gained an MA in Early Mathematics. Denise also gained accreditation from NCETM as a Primary Professional Development Lead. She continues to work with Edge Hill University to manage the delivery of the very successful mathematics intervention programmes: Success@Arithmetic and 1stClass@Number.

Denise successfully delivers the primary statutory assessment contract for moderation and monitoring on behalf of Birmingham LA. Through this role, and as an active member of AAIA, she works closely with other moderation managers both locally and nationally. She recruits, trains and accredits both KS1 and KS2 pool moderators.



ADAM HICKMAN

DEPUTY HEAD OF MUSIC SERVICE

Adam graduated from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (formerly Birmingham Conservatoire) in 2008 with a BMus (Hons) degree, where he studied classical guitar with Mark Ashford and Mark Eden. Upon graduation, Adam completed a PGCE in Primary Education at Birmingham City University and has since worked as a peripatetic music teacher. He is currently Deputy Head of Music Service at Services For Education.

In the past, Adam has worked as an External Examiner at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and coordinated and lectured on music education modules at both Birmingham City University and The University of Birmingham.

In June 2019, Adam was awarded Honorary Membership of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in recognition for his work in music education. Adam is also active as a conductor and ensemble director through his work with the Birmingham Schools' Training Guitar Ensemble and the National Youth Guitar Ensemble.



KIRSTY JONES

HEAD OF SCHOOL SUPPORT

Kirsty has more than 20-years' experience in school leadership spanning mainstream, special schools and alternative provision settings working with schools with both disadvantaged children and high attaining pupils.

Prior to joining Services For Education she was Executive Principal at Shaw Education Trust - which has 26 academies including two Institutes of Education. Before that, Kirsty was Executive School Improvement Advisor at Wolverhampton University Trust.

As Principal at Willenhall E-ACT Academy, from 2017 to 2019, she is credited with implementing a multi-faceted approach that enabled the Academy to go from being a school in special measures to one where Ofsted praised her energy and enthusiasm and acknowledged the dramatic rise in pupil attendance.



EMMA MUDGE

EDUCATION ADVISER

Emma Mudge has more than 20 years experience working in primary education. Throughout this time, she has become a leader in a wide variety of areas throughout the school including Assessment, Teaching and Learning, Curriculum Management and Lead DSL, to name but a few.

As Deputy Head Teacher and Acting Head Teacher, she has been at the forefront of school leadership and improvement. During her role as English leader, she successfully introduced new approaches which significantly raised attainment.

This led her to be approached to support other English coordinators across Birmingham, make presentations to school leaders and become a member of a small group of specialist teachers and leaders, tasked with improving the reading attainment in a number of schools across the city. Emma now works as the Educational Adviser for English at Services for Education, sharing her experience and knowledge of working in primary schools to continually promote and improve the standard of teaching and learning in English, and in school improvement.



JO PERRIN

EDUCATION ADVISER

Jo Perrin taught PSHE in schools for over a decade and held the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead and pastoral lead. Her current role allows her to combine her experience in schools with a personal knowledge of childhood trauma as a former foster carer.

In addition, Jo worked as a West Midlands' Adviser for a national PSHE resource, has delivered a presentation to the Sex Education Forum National Members' Event and has created a variety of RSE resources as part of her role for Services For Education.

Jo's advisory experience is not limited to training school staff as she works with non-education based organisations to support them in safeguarding and emotional health and well-being aims and is an affiliated trainer for Mental Health At Work.



HARJIT SINGH

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS' AZAAD DHOL GROUP

Harjit is a specialist in Music Education and has been for over 35 years; his work also involves working in the community with various music projects.

He was part of the pioneering and famous Bhangra Band of the 80s and 90s called Azaad from Wolverhampton and played Indian percussion with the band. His mission is to make Indian drumming classical and folk genre accessible to a wider audience, and to see people from all cultures playing Indian drums in schools and the community.



LUCIE WELCH

EDUCATION ADVISER

Lucie Welch taught in primary schools for over 13 years, holding the roles of Assistant Head, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Designated Teacher for Looked After Children, Attendance Lead and many subject lead roles. She currently works as an Education Adviser working in the Safeguarding and PSHE.

Through these roles she is able to share her experience and knowledge of teaching in primary schools, leading in a range of subjects and overseeing safeguarding within the primary setting.

Lucie has an interest in understanding how trauma and adverse childhood experiences can impact children and their future lives as well as educating staff and pupils on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment in schools.



SIMONE WHITEHOUSE

EDUCATION ADVISER

Simone qualified with a PGCE in Religious Education following a Bachelors degree in Theology. Simone went onto lead RE in two demographically differently schools in Birmingham before working for the city's advisory service.

Simone works in two areas: Religious Education and Early Career Teachers. Working in Religious Education Simone engages with faith groups and advises the Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE) on RE and Collective Worship. She has worked with others to design lesson plans for the Faith Makes a Difference website to support schools to implement the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus. She has worked on drafting the new Agreed Syllabus.

Simone also works with primary and secondary teachers and school governors. Working on behalf of the City Council as the Appropriate Body for ECTs Simone works with senior leaders and tutors to support their ECTs through induction. Simone has recently been awarded her PhD – demonstrating her love of learning and Religious Education!



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