

**Mini MusE Minutes**  
**for the Spring Term - Music Educators Group**  
**for Primary Schools in Walsall**

**Venue: Hillary Primary School**  
**Dates: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept & 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025**

**Agenda:**

1. Apologies & Welcomes
2. Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Music Service Update
  - a. Events
  - b. SLAs
  - c. General
5. CPD: Early Years: Progression from Reception to Year 1 - Led by Rainbow Rhyme
6. AoB

**1. Apologies & Welcomes**

**Present:**

Steph Dufty	Walsall Music Ed Service	Kirstie Smilie	Butts
Andrew Smith	Beacon Primary - CHAIR	Naomi Shaw	St James
Ashleigh Dolman	Sunshine Nursery & Infants	Phillipa Wooding	Rushall Primary
Ceri Jones	Alumwell Infants	Raj Sandal	Hillary
Emily Keedwell	St Anne's	Suzanne Norman	Watling Street
Georgia Sims	North Walsall	Tony Orbell	Pheasey Park Farm
Helena Smith	Bentley West		

**Apologies:**

Liz George	Hillary	Rachel Tucker	St Giles
Alicia Gindhay (Lici)	Goldsmiths		
Becci Summers	Leamore Primary		
Lizzie Moore	Blackwood		
Luke Wilson	Lindens		
Lydia Farnell	Walsall Wood		
Michelle Wilkes	King Charles		

## 2. Minutes

2.1 Minutes from the Autumn term were accepted.

## 3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 5.2 from Summer 2025 minutes– Charanga Training schools still wanted – Watling Street offered. **Action: SD to liaise with Charanga.**
- 3.2 Roll over action from Autumn: – **AS to do a poll about moving the Sept meeting to October.**

## 4. Music Service Update

### 4.1 Events

- **Harmony** – singing event with public health for children’s mental health. Free. Action: Note for next year if wanted to get involved. Video here for this year: [Harmony Walsall | Children's Mental Health Week | Thursday 12 February 2026](#)
- **Walsall Young Music Star (WYMS)** – bookings now open. Live Final (not for diaries if your student(s) get through: Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- **Xmas Feedback:** liked repertoire balance this year, less songs and more familiar. Booking forms for Xmas 2026 will be out before we next meet.
- **Live Music:** booking forms out end of Jan for last week of summer term performances

### 4.2 SLAs

- Discussion around increase and how to manage. Likely 10% again. Suggestion to reduce weeks to 36 to mitigate and increase live music offerings. Group felt summer is preferable, easter would work well but worth checking when Eid falls.

### 4.3 General

- Glen Taylor has retired from his management post but remaining with a few hours teaching in schools. WMES are recruiting a full time replacement Music Education Specialist – Development.

## 5. CPD: Early Years Progression from Reception to Year 1 – Rainbow Rhyme

5.1 Summary below, more activities shared in session.

5.2 Ice breakers:

- We Will Rock You starter – high expectations and it does work - Year 1 onwards
- Turn Taking - drum in circle and passing a clave/drum stick: “What’s Your Name?” or “Can you tell me Your name? / sport?”
- Box Game - exploring sound and dynamics with body movement and sounds. Pitch.

5.3 Main Focus from reception to year 1 is to establish the pulse – wiggly worm. Then bring in dynamics, or try different speeds, and crescendo etc. and other activities:

- Jungle Rhythms – animal pictures for notation
- Always working on the floor - circle time idea.
- 4 beats – 8 beats and/or mix up animal names. Use clapping or on claves: Snake/Lion/Alligator

5.4 Move from pulse to these rhythms in six months.

5.5 By end of Reception they should be able to follow a simple rhythm.

5.6 In Year 1 – bring in proper notation. Can use koday language if you like or full terms.

5.7 Rhythm Train – all holding up notation cards and creating a longer rhythm.

- 5.8 Putting into groups to develop into compositions – book your spaces / use outside / set up tables with different activities.
- 5.9 Rhythm chart/boxes activity.
- 5.10 Firework song – lots of props and instruments – perfect for melody; pulse; exploring instruments; listening.

## 6. AOB

- 6.1 None

### Next meeting

Bentley West Primary

Monmouth Road, Walsall WS2 0EQ

Host – Helena Smith

Focus – Listen Imagine Compose – with Nancy Evans

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May & Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May 4.30pm – 6pm