

FOSYM GOVERNANCE

Application for a Financial Grant – Guidelines 2026

If you have any questions prior to application or if you require an application form contact us by email - info@fosym.org.uk

AIMS OF THE CHARITY

The Friends of Staffordshire's Young Musicians (FOSYM) is a charity whose purpose is to support and encourage young musicians who live or attend school in Staffordshire to realise their musical aspirations.

FOSYM can help where the financial circumstances of parents / carers may not fully support the costs of singing or instrumental lessons, exam entry, or other costs related to a young person's music – making. FOSYM also raises funds for a range of other musical activities including encouraging excellence in music education.

Please see the FOSYM website fosym.org.uk for more information.

WHAT FOSYM FUNDS

- FOSYM contributes up to 50% towards the cost of lessons, with the actual amount being dependent on the financial circumstances of the family.
- In exceptional cases the amount awarded may exceed 50%.
- Financial Grants are subject to the funds available to FOSYM at any given time.
- Grants are made to young people aged up to their 19th birthday who either live or attend school in Staffordshire.

APPLYING FOR A GRANT:

Financial Grants are applications made directly to FOSYM via **info@fosym.org.uk**.

FOSYM accepts applications from:

- Those with parent / carer responsibility for children in Staffordshire
- Staffordshire Schools
- Music Service Music Centres

TYPES OF FINANCIAL GRANTS:

- A grant towards regular twenty-minute music lessons for no more than 36 weeks per
- A grant towards attendance at courses, workshops or concerts, including transport costs.
- A grant towards the hire of an instrument related to the lessons.
- A grant towards related instrumental costs such as stands, reeds, strings.
- A grant towards external exam costs including music, entry, travel, accompanist
- A grant for additional lesson time for gifted and talented pupils
- A grant towards the cost of one audition for a music course at university or conservatoire

Notes: FOSYM does not usually support:

- Activities which should be funded by school budgets. (e.g. lesson costs for pupils in receipt of pupil premium)
- The cost of lessons for second instruments unless the pupil has achieved high levels of competency above Grade 4
- Electronic devices and software unless there is a specific identified musical need
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HOW TO APPLY FOR A FINANCIAL GRANT

- The Financial Grant Application form must be completed in full and returned as advised. All applications are acknowledged.
- Applicants are advised to provide as much financial evidence as possible to enable Trustees to understand the financial position of the family.
- All information provided is subject to FOSYM's privacy statement which can be viewed on the website fosym.org.uk.
- Failure to complete all sections adequately may delay the grant process.
- You must provide a reference to support your application.
- FOSYM may seek additional information from applicants or their referee if necessary

ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS RECEIVED

- Your application will be acknowledged.
- The Board of Trustees will consider applications as soon as it is possible,
- Trustees are volunteers. There may be a delay in advising of their decision, dependent on time of year and volume of applications received.

The Board of Trustees will consider:

- How the application meets the aims of the Charity.
- How the application demonstrates value-for-money.
- How the application shows evidence that the family, school, another charity, or a third-party organisation is also contributing.
- That the request is in the best interest of the pupil
- Whether the activity could not happen without FOSYM's direct support.

IF YOU ARE AWARDED A GRANT

- A letter of notification is sent to the applicant by email.
- The letter may outline specific information relevant to your application.
- You will be asked for your bank details so that payment can be made.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SUPPORT FOSYM HAS PROVIDED

In accepting a grant, the parent/carer agrees to acknowledge the support of FOSYM by:

- Providing a written report at the end of the funding period showing how the grant has had an influence on the young person's musical life, their progress and aspirations.
- Promoting the work of the charity

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- The grant is non-transferable.
- In most cases costs incurred before the approval of the grant cannot be paid.
- The project/activity must be completed within one year of the award of the grant.
- If the project/activity costs less than the grant awarded, the grantee must refund the difference to FOSYM.
- Anonymised data is shared with FOSYM Members at the Charity's Annual General Meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- No part of the grant can be used for the publication or promotion of any material which in whole or in part appears to be designed to affect public support for any political party or group or for the promotion of illegal activity or any activity which may damage the reputation of FOSYM or its partners in music education.
- All information related to your grant is stored securely by FOSYM for six years after the award, at which point it is deleted.