

What is Proms in the Playground?

Proms in the Playground is a national, musical initiative from Brass Bands England's Brass Foundations Programme that seeks to link Brass Bands with their local school to provide a free, fun performance in their playground during the last three weeks of the summer term.

Why should my band get involved in Proms in the Playground?

The initiative is a mutually beneficial opportunity to share in the experience of live music.

For schools, it offers a free, 'on-the-doorstep' solution to the DfE guidance that "Primary music leads should think about opportunities to invite performances from local secondary pupils or local ensembles (Hub ensembles or broader community groups), to help build links and provide role models for younger pupils." (National Plan for Music Education 2, p. 33).

For your band, it provides an opportunity to enthuse children, young people and their parents about brass bands. If you have a youth section in your organisation, it provides a potential opportunity to inspire the children (and their families) to learn to play within your band.

What other benefits are there?

- Your band gets to take part in a national initiative
- It will benefit from the #PromsInThePlayground promotion from Brass Bands England
- You will make new connections for your band
- You can gain free advice and support from the BBE Brass Foundations Team
- You get to support the players of the future

...and be a part of an enthusiastic community of musicians and educators across the country!

How do I get in touch with my local school?

- Use your connections - who in your band has children or grandchildren at the school? Ask them to talk to their teacher directly to make the offer.
- Find out who the music lead is in your school and phone the school directly to ask to speak to them. It's very unlikely this will be an instant connection, but a phone call is a personal touch.
- Email the music lead in the school. Often, you can find the information on the school website. We have created a sample email which you can use to make that initial introduction from your band.
- Visit the school during school hours and leave your details with the admin team.

How do we know how to fit in with what the school are doing?

- Be sure of what you can offer before you make that initial contact. How many players might you have? How long do you think you'll play for?
- Do your research. The school's website will give you lots of information, from a calendar of events through to the music curriculum delivered at the school. Could you play music that fits into one of the music topics, or a wider curricular topic? Do you have music that is included on the Model Music Curriculum Listening lists?

What music should we be offering to play and for how long?

- As a general rule - it's a good idea to play lots of music that the children might know. Film music, Disney music, and pop songs are great starters, but equally, don't underestimate the fun of a march or a lively piece of classical music. The Model Music Curriculum has lists of music which the DfE advise different year groups to listen to. BBE has a list of music from the listening lists that have brass band arrangements, These can be found here: bbe.band/rep-lists
- Have a look at the school's website. It will give you lots of information, from a calendar of events through to the music curriculum delivered at the school. Could you play music that fits into one of the music topics, or a wider curricular topic?

What else can we offer the school?

- This year we have a [pack of resources](#) which you will be able to share with the school ([bbe.band/PITP-resources](#)) They have been created by qualified music teachers with a wealth of experience and are aimed at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The pack includes activities which can be used as standalone activities or can be integrated into a longer unit of work and are focused on the three basic areas of the music curriculum; performing, composing and listening & appraising. Sharing these resources with the school will give your presence a little more relevance and credibility as you will be seen as something integral to the curricular offer, not just a nice experience for the children.
- Encourage the teachers to record your visit. Many of the resources rely on a recording of at least one piece of music as a starting point for the activities which they will listen back to in class afterwards.