

Key Stage 4 Qualifications Reform  
Consultation Unit  
Area 1c  
Castle View House  
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10 December 2012

**Key Stage 4 Qualifications Reform Consultation**

*Dear Sir,*

UK Music does not support the proposed English Baccalaureate qualifications system as we feel it will deny young people a well-rounded education and harm the creative industries. It winds back the clock in terms of creative and cultural learning and is therefore not fit for purpose in preparing the next generation of students for life in the 21st century.

The creative and cultural industries have been recognised as a growth sector, and are expected to increase in both employment and economic contribution leading up to 2020. The UK Music industry contributes £3.97 billion to the UK economy and employs approximately 130,000 people. However, in order for the UK music industry to grow and achieve its economic potential it will require an incoming workforce that is diverse and highly skilled with a wide range of practical experience.

The push for students to concentrate only on traditional academic subjects ignores the creative and cultural sectors as core growth industries. By ignoring these sectors, it seems the DfE is working in isolation from the skills and growth strategies at DCMS and BIS.

The number of students studying music in schools has fallen since the English Baccalaureate was introduced in 2010 and excellent music teachers and music departments are being sidelined. We were alarmed to learn that there has been a 3.6% decline in the numbers of pupils studying music at GCSE from the previous year (Dan Jarvis MP, Written Parliamentary Question, 15 October 2012), and we fear that this downward trend will continue if the current proposals go ahead.

The current suite of English Baccalaureate subjects puts barriers on the pathway from school to the creative industries. UK Music is concerned by a recent MORI poll which revealed that over the last year alone 27% of schools have cut courses as a direct result of the EBacc measure and the previous year 45% of schools cut courses.

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Creators are the lifeblood of the music industry. UK Music's membership is concerned that as a result of the introduction of the EBacc there will be fewer songwriters, composers, musicians, creators, creative professionals and audiences which would be damaging for the entire industry in the future.

Music Publishers invest and develop products specifically to aid the tuition of music in schools. Many composers specialise in writing music specifically for educational purposes or to be performed within the school environment and many of the Musicians' Union members livelihoods are dependent on the work they undertake in schools – either as a community musicians, instrumental teachers or professional musicians working with schools on specific projects. If schools cut music classes as a result of the EBacc there is a real danger that these jobs would be under threat.



With EBacc subjects expected to take up 80% of school time, subjects including music will be marginalised to a small percentage of the 20% of time 'left over' from the 'important' subjects. As a result young people's access to music education in schools will be much reduced which will have a disproportionate impact on young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. If these proposals do go ahead we would like to add our voice to the growing calls for a sixth pillar of creative subjects to be included in the English Baccalaureate.

Arts and cultural learning is essential in schools and makes a real difference. The Cultural Learning Alliance has pointed towards research which shows that young people taking part in structured music activities improves attainment in literacy, maths and early language acquisition. In addition, young people who participate in arts activities at school are also three times more likely to get a degree and are more employable.

We await Government's recommendations from the current curriculum review. The debate should centre on the National Music Plan which we feel is the crucial issue in music education at this point. We would like to see a continuation of music as a statutory core subject with access to high quality practical musical opportunities and experiences including being able to learn an instrument and sing as well as play in bands, orchestras and ensembles, delivered by a motivated and resourced workforce which helps develop the next generation of musicians.

The success of the Olympics and the Paralympics this summer underlined the importance of music to the very substance of Great Britain and it showcased the UK Music industry as a world leader. It is vital that our education system promotes the creative curriculum alongside the more traditional academic subjects, to help develop more adaptive and creative young people and address skills shortages that threaten the growth of our sector.

Please feel free to contact me at UK Music should we be of any help during the consultation process.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jo Dipple'.

Jo Dipple  
Chief Executive



## About UK Music

UK Music is an umbrella organisation representing the collective interests of the UK's commercial music industry – from songwriters and composers, artists and musicians, to studio producers, music managers, music publishers, major and independent record labels, collective licensing bodies and, now, the live music sector.

## ANNEX

UK Music's membership is comprised of:

- Association of Independent Music (AIM) representing over 850 small and medium sized independent music companies;
- British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) – with over 2,000 members BASCA is the professional association for music writers and exists to support and protect the artistic, professional, commercial and copyright interests of songwriters, lyricists and composers of all genres of music and to celebrate and encourage excellence in British music writing
- The BPI representing more than 350 music companies, from major labels to the smallest independents, accounting for more than 85% of all recorded music sold in the UK
- Music Managers Forum representing 425 managers throughout the music industry
- Music Producers Guild representing and promoting the interests of all those involved in the production of recorded music – including producers, engineers, mixers, re-mixers, programmers and mastering engineers
- Music Publishers Association, with more than 260 major and independent music publishers representing close to 4,000 catalogues across all genres of music
- Musicians Union representing 30,000 musicians
- PPL licensing for 46,000 performers and 5,750 record companies
- PRS for Music is responsible for the collective licensing of rights in the musical works of 90,000 composers, songwriters and publishers and an international repertoire of 10 million songs
- UK Live Music Group, representing the main trade associations and representative bodies of the live music sector