

Animate Orchestra Local Courses

Local courses are usually of 2 days duration. They introduce a range of creative skills (such as composition and improvisation) and musical skills (such as listening to and playing with others). At the end of each course the ensemble shares the music made in an informal performance to friends and family.

Our staff team includes a Creative Director, instrumental tutors, professional orchestral musicians from the London Philharmonic Orchestra and music students from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. During courses young people take part in small group tasks and sectionals as well as creating and rehearsing as a large ensemble. Young people are encouraged to contribute their ideas and make decisions throughout, but our approach is flexible to allow individuals to develop their own role appropriate to their level of skill and confidence.

Local courses are open to young people who live or attend school in the appropriate borough and play an instrument (of any type, including laptops and technology to any standard). New members can join at any time in school years 5 – 8 and may continue to attend until year 10.

Places are offered on a first come first served basis, taking into account the need to create a balance between instrumental sections. This means that we may be able to offer places to players of some instruments later than those playing others. A music technology group uses computers and sound equipment to record, sample and manipulate sounds as part of the ensemble. This is open to technology specialists and players of other instruments, and we rotate membership between courses.

A dedicated pastoral team support young people with issues practical or emotional that arise during courses, manage arrivals, departures and break times. Focus groups and feedback forums are built into each day, so that young people reflect on their experiences, provide us with invaluable feedback and help us make courses as successful as possible.

Each year a group of young people are invited to become Peer Mentors and enter for Arts Awards. Peer Mentors undertake leadership roles within sections, help to gather feedback and represent other young people and take part in additional activities as part of their Arts Awards preparation.

For dates of local courses, and to apply to take part, please visit www.animateorchestra.org.uk/booking-information/