



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC

London

RCM SPARKS

Impact and achievement
2024-25



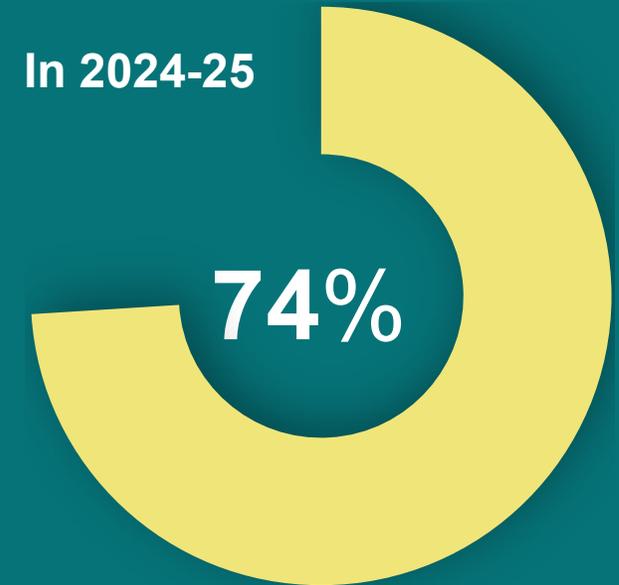


MUSIC WITHOUT BARRIERS

We believe that all young people should be given the chance to engage with live music, to participate, learn, and build bonds through creativity and shared experiences.

RCM Sparks offers music education experiences for children, young people and families from low-income households, groups underrepresented in higher education (as stated by the Office for Students), and children or young people with disabilities.

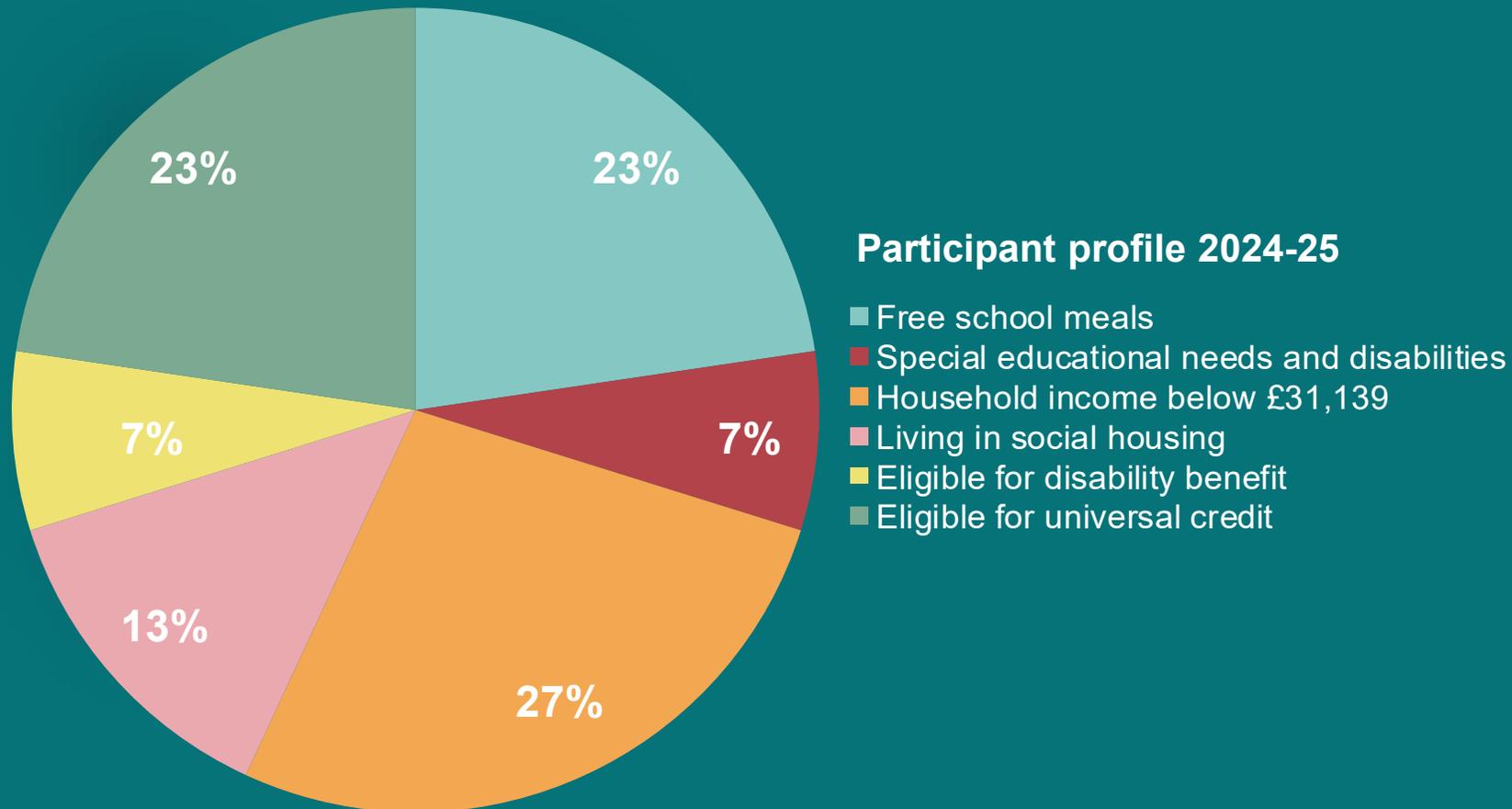
RCM Sparks subsidises the cost of all activities to provide value for money for families and to ensure equal access. In addition, many families are eligible for free places or tickets.



of participants attending community events were from underrepresented groups

ENGAGEMENT & DELIVERY

In 2024-25, RCM Sparks provided live music experiences for 3400 participants, 225 practical workshop opportunities for young people and families and music education training or practical opportunities for over 200 students.





Sparks workshops are so inspiring – a wonderful opportunity for these young musicians and a reminder to them (and to all of us) that they belong in spaces like the RCM.

Parent of Sparks attendee

CREATING PATHWAYS

RCM Sparks remained focused on providing accessible, funded, long-term learning pathways.

Mini Sparks (ages 0-3)

26 early years music workshops for 141 participants in 3 local community centres.

Sparks Juniors (age 6-11)

5-year programme of tuition at RCM Junior Department for 10 children from under-represented groups, focused on brass.

Get Set Play (Ages 6–11)

6-week family initiative reaching 55 people in areas with limited provision, followed by a 1-year scholarship to Tri-borough Music Hub, focusing on double reed instruments.

Explorers & Launch Pad (ages 6-13)

Regular creative courses, reaching 100 children, opening the door to the RCM Museum and/or live performance programme.

Springboard Young Composers (ages 14-15)

Year-long course designed to raise aspirations in composition, engaging 14 participants from state secondary schools.





BUILDING A PIPELINE

RCM Sparks strengthened and diversified the UK pipeline of talented young musicians, particularly in shortage or under-represented areas such as lower brass, woodwind, lower strings, and percussion.

246 participants joined us at specialist projects such as:

- Young Double Reed Programme
- Youth Brass Course
- Woodwind Performance Day
- GALSI (Gender and the Large and Shiny Instruments) - promoting gender equality across brass and percussion
- RCM One-Day Faculty Festivals (percussion & strings)





WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

RCM Sparks worked with schools to support the delivery of high-quality musical activity in response to the decline in music education in the state sector.

1276 school children experienced a live concert at the RCM.

393 school children experienced a workshop in their school.

150 Key Stage 1 children engaged with a specially written curriculum before performing at the RCM.

3 partner secondary schools contributed to the development of a new composition support pilot being rolled out in 25-26.



The Spring concert allowed a huge amount of our children to see an orchestra for the first time live. It's a strange thing to teach 'about' something like an orchestra when so many of our children have never experienced it.

LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER



INCLUSIVE ARTS PARTNERSHIPS

RCM Sparks collaborated with RCM departments and external arts partners to create inclusive, bespoke projects that respond to specific needs and train RCM students in specialist areas of music education.

26 deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind, or vision-impaired children participated in Musical Senses.

Sparks worked with Music of Life, training RCM students to teach music to children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

6 RCM students collaborated with Turtle Key Arts to bring music to people living with dementia and autism.

6 RCM students worked with In Deep, a music therapy programme supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



A VIBRANT NEW GENERATION OF MUSIC EDUCATORS

RCM Sparks continued to train Royal College of Music students in the field of learning and participation, providing relevant and meaningful practical experience.

120

Student placements for curriculum music education modules

20

Weekly mentoring roles

190

Students involved in bespoke training and practical experiences



Not only do we get amazing training in action, but we also meet great people and professionals. It's a safe environment for me to practise my leading skills whilst being part of a professional environment.

RCM BMus Sparks Student Mentor



RCM SPARKS

