

National Piping Centre – Access Scheme Summary

The Access Scheme provides financial and practical support to remove barriers to participation in piping and traditional music. It offers free places, reduced fees, and additional support to ensure access is fair, transparent, and inclusive.

Who Can Apply

Anyone applying to eligible NPC learning activities may apply, including trainees. Priority is given to:

- Young people (under 26)
- Disabled people
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- People from Black, Asian and global majority backgrounds
- Care-experienced young people
- Young parents and young carers
- People living in areas of social and economic deprivation (SIMD)

Applications are assessed holistically, recognising that individuals may experience multiple barriers.

Eligible Activities

- NYPBS
- NPC Clubs
- NPC Holiday Clubs

Individual tuition and audience participation activities are not currently included.

Support Available

Free Places: Available for households with income of £25,000 or less, or where specific benefit or care criteria are met.

Reduced Fees: Households earning £55,000 or less may receive: £25k–£35k (80%), £35k–£45k (60%), £45k–£55k (30%).

Discretionary Support: Available in exceptional circumstances where clear financial barriers remain.

Travel Bursaries: Up to £250 per year for households under £35,000. Additional discretionary support may be available.

Additional Costs: Support may be available for accommodation, carer provision, disability access requirements, and other essential participation costs.

Two-Child Discount

Families with two or more children participating receive 40% off the second child's fee (maximum two places). This can be combined with Access Scheme bursaries.

How to Apply

Applications are submitted online and cannot be awarded retrospectively. Most decisions are made within 2–4 weeks. All applications are treated in strict confidence. For queries: accessscheme@thepipingcentre.co.uk