



24th September 2010

Statement

Music Review welcomed by Music Services

The Government's announcement of a review of music education has been welcomed by the Federation of Music Services (FMS), the body that represents music services in England. The review initiated by Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education and supported by the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries is being led by Darren Henley, the Managing Director of Classic FM and chair of the Music Manifesto Partnership and Advocacy Group.

FMS Chief Executive, Virginia Haworth-Galt said:

"Darren Henley is a highly respected figure in the world of music and we welcome his incisive views on the future of music education.

"Our music service members represent the backbone of music education provision in schools and we are confident the review will recognise the value and proven breadth of learning that they offer. The FMS is enthusiastic about exploring new ways to improve the planning and the cost efficient delivery of music in schools and the community. Our avowed aim is to enable more children to access music and continue to raise attainment standards throughout their musical lives.

"This total review of music education creates great opportunities to examine ways of working more closely with partners to enhance music and arts provision

at local levels throughout the country to ensure that all children have access to excellent music provision.”

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

- 1. The FMS is a registered charity that was formed in the 1990s to help regional music services organisations to be more effective and to represent them in dealing with central and local government.*
- 2. The FMS represents 158 Music Services organisations in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Isles – 98% of all music services. Their role is to provide primary and secondary schools with all that they need to teach music: they set standards, provide teaching aids, equipment and training for heads of music/ music teachers. They employ about 12,000 music teachers, music tutors and assistants nationwide and teach more than 2 million pupils every year. FMS members are the backbone of music education.*
- 3. The Dept. for Education support music provision through the Music Standards Fund Grant. A separate grant, the Musical Instrument Fund, provides money for the purchase of musical instruments in the Wider Opportunities Programme at KS2.*