



England Supplement

Music Unlocked - 18 June 2021 – Roadmap Step 3 extended

The Prime Minister has confirmed that England remains at Step 3 of the Roadmap until Monday 19th July 2021, although this may be brought forward. The only change to the guidance is that out-of-school settings may take groups of 30 children on residential. Schools should note that the operational guidance says:

Teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects

Up to and including Key Stage 3, prioritisation within subjects of the most important components for progression is likely to be more effective than removing subjects, which may deprive pupils of the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

In school you can:

- Teach music to whole-class groups in schools; indeed the Department for Education expects schools to teach arts subjects (Schools' operational guidance p.54)
- Welcome peripatetic (visiting) teachers in schools (p.54)
- Allow peripatetic teachers to move between schools without restrictions on the number of settings they visit per day or per week (p.39)
- Allow all staff including peripatetic teachers to move between class bubbles, taking care to maintain distancing especially from other adults (p.54)
- Sing and play any and all combinations of instruments in class, including woodwind and brass (p.55)
 - The guidance recommends playing and singing outdoors if possible and prioritises social distancing and ventilation if playing or singing indoors (p.55)
- Teach individual and small group lessons (p.57)
- Offer educational visits, including residential visits, in the UK only (p.48 and p.67 Annex C)
- Perform to a live audience indoors or outdoors (p.55)

After school you can:

- Run clubs in school for all children, using school staff or outside providers, e.g. Music Education Hub staff (p.50)
 - From 17th May, groups may be of any size, for indoor and outdoor provision but the guidance still recommends maintaining consistent groups over time (p.50)

In out-of-school settings you can:

- Run all out-of-school activities including those that take place indoors and for all children and young people (Protective Measures for Out-of-school settings p.5)
- Groups of any size are permitted indoors or out but if occupancy levels, distancing and ventilation are unfavourable, groups should still be no more than 15 and groups not permitted to mingle (p.10)
- Sing and play any and all combinations of instruments in out-of-school activities, including woodwind and brass (p.28)
- The guidance prioritises social distancing (2m) and ventilation for higher aerosol activities
- Run educational day visits (p.29)
- Run residential visits. There is no absolute limit on the number of children that can take part, **however** participants must be managed in groups of no more than thirty children plus staff. (p.30)

You can also:

- Teach in private homes – the tutor’s or the student’s (Schools’ operational guidance p.57)

You cannot:

- Play woodwind or brass instruments, or sing in “larger groups”, which we understand in schools to mean larger than a class bubble, unless distancing, ventilation and other mitigations can be maintained (Schools’ operational guidance p.55)
- Use physical correction or allow contact between pupils, as either would compromise social distancing (pp.54 & 657)

We recommend:

- Observing social distancing meticulously for peripatetic staff, both from school staff and pupils
- Distancing as much as practicably possible for singing and playing blown instruments in class bubbles (although this may be relaxed for recorders and ocarinas, as they do not require significant volumes of air)
- Issuing books and copies of music to individual students for their exclusive use
- Considering masks with slits for playing through and bell covers for wind and brass players (as per the [Colorado research](#)), especially for instrumental lessons in small practice rooms

Guidance:

Avoid printing or e-mailing guidance documents, as the latest versions are always online. Follow the guidance that most closely matches the spirit and intention of what you are doing, as trying to comply with more than one guidance document may be impossible.

Covid-19 Response – Spring 2021

Presented to Parliament by the Prime Minister: [Roadmap out of lockdown](#)

Schools and education

Music Mark: [Music Unlocked](#)

DfE: [Schools coronavirus \(Covid-19\) operational guidance](#) (updated 10th May)

DfE: [Out of School Settings \(OOSS\) guidance](#) (updated 7th May)

Adult groups:

Making Music: [Can my group get back to in-person activities?](#) (scroll to bottom and click through)

DCMS: [Performing arts guidance](#) (referred to in the schools’ guidance but mostly not applicable)

PHE: [Suggested principles of safer singing](#) (for information: not aimed at children’s activity)

Appendix

Summer performances

Group sizes (schools and OOSS groups)

Some LA licensing officers are taking a strict line that group sizes in the DCMS Performing Arts guidance apply to performances by schools and Out-of-School settings. They are informed by a non-statutory 'Clarification on Non-Professional Performing Arts activity' in the members' area of the NNCEE website, which says that it is subject to gathering limits but does not reference the DfE guidance.

It is Music Mark's view that the Schools' operational guidance and the OOSS guidance respectively **continue to apply** to performances which are part of educational activity, irrespective of venue.

An e-mail from the DfE to schools on 15th June confirmed that schools are exempt from the limit of six people singing in the DCMS Performing Arts guidance. This aligns with the OOSS guidance, which states, "Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare settings are exempt from the requirement to limit group numbers to 6 for singing indoors."

Moreover, where the DfE intends other guidance to apply (e.g. to OOSS residential before 20th June), it says so explicitly.

A group that is run for school children but includes a small number of sixth formers who reached their 18th birthdays and are 'working their way out' should still operate under the Department for Education guidance. Staff who play with the group as part of their work do not count towards group sizes.

Group sizes (adult groups)

Adult groups are covered by the DCMS Performing Arts guidelines and are subject to the following limits (rehearsing or performing):

	Playing	Singing
Indoors	Groups of 6 or two households Multiple groups permitted	One single group of 6 people Nobody else on stage
Outdoors	Groups of 30 Multiple groups permitted	Groups of 30 Multiple groups permitted

Groups that are primarily community groups with a small number of younger members should still be managed under the DCMS guidelines.

Group sizes (mixed ages)

It would be easier not to have mixed age-group performances at this time (except for staff genuinely employed for the performance. If it is unavoidable, you may need to manage different groups under the relevant guidance for each group. This does not apply to amateur adults singing indoors, as a group of six automatically prevents participation by any other people.

Mitigations within groups

Groups must be distanced from each other. Within contact groups, people have much higher exposure to each other anyway and social distancing within the group is less effective. If space is at a premium, it would be wise to prioritise distancing for blown instruments over (say) strings or percussion.

Face coverings are recommended for indoor activity when not blowing an instrument or eating/drinking. They should definitely be worn when moving around a building.

Bell covers

Bell covers have been shown to be effective at reducing aerosol release and are recommended for brass particularly, as bells tend to be held high. There is little benefit to covers for flutes as they have been shown not to generate significant aerosol.

Performances involving multiple groups

A one-way system back stage is likely to be helpful in reducing contact between groups. Groups will need separate holding areas. It will probably be necessary to clean shared equipment (music stands, percussion, backline amps, keyboards, drum kits etc) between groups.

Audiences

Audiences will need to be managed according to the DCMS Performing Arts guidance. If possible, we recommend ticketing the performance through the venue's box office so that the audience becomes their responsibility.

Venues must not be filled beyond 50% of their usual capacity (absolute numbers apply but these are quite high and will rarely come into play). This applies to outdoor venues and it will be necessary to explore with the venue what this means in practice, as it is unlikely that a school playing field has an official spectator capacity.

Indoors, people must stay in groups of six or two households. Audiences for outdoor events may be managed in groups of up to thirty. Staff do not count towards gathering limits.

Audiences and performers must not be allowed to mingle. Pinch points such as access points and toilets may be a challenge.

Enhanced Response Areas

If your event is due to take place in an area with higher rates of infection or rapidly growing rates of infection, additional restrictions may apply, particularly in relation to unnecessary travel. Restrictions may be imposed at short notice, so event organisers will need to be aware of local conditions.