



England Supplement

Music Unlocked - 24 February 2021

All schools in England will reopen for all pupils on 8th March 2021. Local outbreaks excepted, the firm ambition is that they will now remain open permanently. This is step one on the roadmap out of lockdown. As there will be a minimum of five weeks until we move to step two, the current guidance is not expected to change significantly before 12th April.

You can:

- Teach music to whole-class groups in schools; indeed the Department for Education expects schools to teach arts subjects (Restricting Attendance p.47)
- Welcome peripatetic (visiting) teachers in schools (ibid. p.48)
- Allow peripatetic teachers to move between schools without restrictions on the number of settings they visit per day or per week (ibid. p.48)
- Sing and play any and all combination of instruments in class, including woodwind and brass (ibid. p.49)
 - The guidance prioritises social distancing for higher aerosol activities
- Teach individual and small group lessons, subject to a suitable space (ibid. p.50)
- Run after-school clubs in school as part of wrap around care, using school staff or outside providers, e.g. Music Education Hub staff (ibid. p.46)
- Run other out-of-school provision but **only** for vulnerable children, key workers' children, where attendance is necessary for parents to work or for home educated children (OOSS – Who can attend your setting)
 - Children should still be kept in small and consistent groups of no more than fifteen (ibid. Considering group sizes)
 - Multiple groups of fifteen can occupy the same space but must not mix (ibid. Operating with multiple groups)
- Teach in private homes – the tutor's or the student's (ibid. Music, dance and drama provision)

You cannot:

- Play or sing in “larger groups”, which we understand to be larger than a class bubble (Restricting Attendance p.49)
- Use physical correction or allow contact between pupils, as either would compromise social distancing (ibid. p.47)
- Perform to a live audience (ibid. p.48)
- Run educational visits, including non-residential (OOSS – Educational visits and trips)

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: [Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools](#) (updated 22nd February)

DfE: [Out of School Settings \(OOSS\) guidance](#) (updated 23rd February)

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)