



England Supplement

30 August 2021 (guidance updated 27th August 2021)

Over the summer, the Department for Education removed the section on Music, Dance and Drama from all its school and OOSS guidance. Restrictions do not persist once removed, thus all previous restrictions no longer apply.

In school you can:

- Resume all musical activity in the classroom and outside of school hours, as it happened up to March 2020 (nothing in the guidance restricts this)
- Mix groups freely ([Mixing and bubbles](#))
- Resume assemblies (also [Mixing and bubbles](#)): note that nothing in the guidance prevents singing in assemblies
- Offer educational visits, including residential visits, in the UK and abroad ([Educational visits](#))
- Welcome parents into school for performances ([Control measures](#) – see section 3, para 2)

In out-of-school settings you can:

- Run all out-of-school activities as you did up to March 2020 (nothing in the guidance restricts this)
- Run groups of any size and mix groups freely ([Group sizes](#))
- Welcome parents in ([Safety measures for activities](#))
- Perform ([Safety measures for activities](#)): note that there are no particular restrictions on singing or playing blown instruments but that venues should monitor CO₂ levels, as an indication of the effectiveness of the ventilation
- Run educational visits, including residential visits, in the UK and abroad ([Safety measures for activities](#))

You cannot:

- There are no activities that are restricted at this time. **This includes any and all activities which may have been restricted during the last eighteen months.**

We recommend:

- Reviewing your risk assessments for each activity and venue or space
- Distancing as reasonably possible for high aerosol activity
- Continuing to match numbers carefully to spaces to ensure good ventilation
- Maintaining enhanced hand hygiene and cleaning regimes
- Updating contingency plans to enable stepping mitigations up and down ([schools](#) or [OOSS](#))
- Maintaining capacity and plans for remote teaching for at least the 21/22 academic year

Briefing teaching teams

You may find it helpful to share some of the following points when speaking to teachers or tutors at the beginning of term.

Music Unlocked has been prepared using the latest guidance from the Department for Education and Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It takes account of major Covid-19 studies, including the UK's [PERFORM study](#) and the internationally funded [Colorado research](#).

To date, Music Mark is not aware of a single case of Covid-19, let alone an outbreak, which has been linked to music education in UK schools or out-of-school settings.

Although widespread vaccination has lowered the probability of a positive case in any group of people, transmission in the classroom is still possible, so activity needs to manage the risks from:

- Airborne (aerosol) transmission – largely managed with distancing and ventilation; and
- Surface-contact (fomite) transmission – managed through hand hygiene and cleaning regularly.

Risk assessments have been updated but there is still an onus on the person leading the activity to follow the mitigations outlined in the risk assessment (or the Safe Scheme of Work) and to adjust their delivery in response to the actual situation.

Although they have not previously linked to infections, peripatetic (visiting) staff remain a potential bridge between different schools and it is reasonable for them to take additional measures. These may include continuing to wear masks in common areas of schools such as corridors, especially if moving around schools at busy times, e.g. during lesson changeovers.

It may be necessary to re-introduce some measures or restrict certain activities in the event of a localised outbreak. Plans are in place to step up (and down) mitigations in a way that enables children's music education to continue.

All indications are that Covid-19 remains a mild infection for most children: it is still true that the adults in the room are probably the most vulnerable and they should (within reason) act accordingly.

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.

Schools and education

Music Mark: [Music Unlocked - 21/22 all UK edition](#)

DfE: [Schools coronavirus \(Covid-19\) operational guidance](#) (updated 27th August)

DfE: [Out of School Settings \(OOSS\) guidance](#) (updated 27th August)

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)