



England Supplement

30th November 2021 (updated for the omicron variant)

The latest Department for Education guidance (29th November 2021) imposes no new restrictions on musical activity for children. This means that there are **no restrictions** on singing or playing blown instruments, either in schools or out-of-school settings. The guidance reimposes the wearing of face coverings for secondary children and adults (including visitors) in communal areas and updates provisions for supporting Track and Trace. It also returns to cautioning against educational visits outside the UK.

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 ([Schools' operational guidance](#) Mixing and bubbles, p.5)
- Resume assemblies (as above): note that nothing in the guidance prevents singing in assemblies
- Welcome parents into school for performances (Control measures – see section 3 para 2, p.12)
- Run educational visits in the UK. While you can still run educational visits abroad, these must comply with rapidly changing guidance and you should consider whether these should go ahead at this time (Educational visits and trips, p.17)

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 ([Actions for out-of-school settings](#), Group sizes, p.12)
- Welcome parents in (Parental attendance, p.19)
- Perform (Performances and events, p.19): 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 in the UK. While you can still run educational visits abroad, these must comply with rapidly changing guidance and you should consider whether these should go ahead at this time (Educational visits and trips, p.19)

You cannot:

- There are no activities that are restricted at this time. **This includes any and all activities which have been restricted at some time during the pandemic.**

We recommend:

- Reviewing your risk assessments for each activity and venue or space (the DfE advised schools to do this on 29th November)
- Encouraging wearing of masks by visiting adults in schools, including when this is not required by law, guidance or school policy
- Continuing to match numbers carefully to spaces and ensuring good ventilation
- Distancing as reasonably possible for high aerosol activity
- Maintaining enhanced hand hygiene and cleaning regimes
- Reaffirming to people who deliver on your behalf the control measures you have identified
- Updating contingency plans to enable stepping mitigations up and down (Schools p.10 or OOSS p.11)
- Maintaining capacity and plans for remote teaching for at least the 21/22 academic year

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 Covid-19 operational guidance](#) (updated 29th November)

DfE: [Out of School Settings \(OOSS\) guidance](#) (updated 29th November)

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 only applicable to managing live performances)