



Wales supplement

Music Unlocked – 19 May 2021

All schools are now open, including special schools and PRUs are also open.

Face coverings should be worn by staff in all schools and also by secondary pupils where 2m distancing cannot be maintained.

The *Guidance on learning in schools and settings: coronavirus* does not mention music directly but in a section headed [Broad and balanced learning](#) does say:

*It is important that learning continues to provide breadth, drawing on different subjects, domains, disciplines and topics. **Areas such as the creative arts should not be lost**; it can offer opportunities to develop skills and knowledge such as creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem-solving, personal effectiveness, planning and organising.*

In school, you can

- Teach music to whole classes in schools (nothing in the guidance prevents this)
- Sing and play blown instruments in any combination in whole-class groups (again, nothing in the guidance prevents this)
- Welcome peripatetic teachers into school (not said directly but see next bullet point)
- Allow peripatetic teachers to visit multiple sites and schools (Operational guidance pp. 26 & 49)
- Run after-school provision as part of wrap around care, using school staff or outside providers
 - Children should be kept in small, consistent groups as far as possible
- Perform to a live audience:
 - Concert halls and theatres are able to open from 17th May
 - Schools will want to consider how to manage audiences within the guidance on visitors
- Take groups on educational day visits within Wales (p.58)

In out-of-school settings, you can

- Offer out-of-school clubs and activities ([Organised children's activities FAQs](#))
- Operate groups of any size, subject to sufficient distancing and ventilation (ditto)
 - You should still manage children in small, consistent groups
- Sing and play blown instruments in any combination, with 2m distancing – no distinction is made in the guidance between higher or lower aerosol instruments
- Perform to a live audience in line with the [WG performing arts guidance](#)

Private tutors can

- Teach in their own home or visit students' homes ([see here](#))
- Teach in rented spaces (ditto)

You cannot

- Offer residential visits or international trips (p.59)
 - Although this appears to be at odds with [this](#) in the Organised children's activities FAQs

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
- Participating in twice-weekly testing using lateral flow devices to protect students and the workforce and to provide reassurance to schools
 - The schools' guidance says that tests are available to "tests are available to all staff working in schools/settings including...peripatetic teachers" (Operational guidance p.33)
- Wearing a face covering when visiting a school and not in a teaching room (Operational guidance p.23)

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.

[WG coronavirus guidance for schools](#)

[WG Schools' operational guidance](#)

[WG Learning in Schools guidance](#)

[WG Organised children's activities FAQs](#)

[Music Unlocked](#) (Music Mark)

[Can my group get back to in-person activities?](#) (Making Music – relevant to adult groups)