

Wales supplement

Music Unlocked - 24 February 2021

Schools are reopening for foundation phase learners from Monday 22nd February 2021. Vulnerable children and children of critical workers also continue to attend school. Where possible, 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.*

Guidance is otherwise patchy, with few directly relevant statements. It is sometimes necessary to triangulate with other guidance (e.g. the level 4 alert guidance).

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 (Limited Attendance: staff deployment section)
- Allow peripatetic teachers to visit multiple sites and schools (ibid.)
- Run after school provision in schools (for children eligible to attend school) as part of wrap around care, using school staff or outside providers
 - Children should be kept in small, consistent groups as far as possible

You cannot

- Teach face-to-face in private homes (the tutor's or the student's)
- Run music centres or out-of-school ensembles/choirs face-to-face
- Perform to a live audience
 - Concert halls must remain closed to audiences, although performances may be streamed or broadcast

We recommend

- 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 "all those working in schools will have access to LFDs to test for coronavirus at home twice a week". Elsewhere however it says, "It's important to note that only school staff with symptoms of the coronavirus need to take a test."
 - Note however that employers cannot compel employees to take a test (or the vaccine for that matter) but schools can – and may well – refuse entry to suppliers' employees who do not have a recent negative test

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 Supporting Limited Attendance guidance](#)

[WG Learning in Schools guidance](#)

[Music Unlocked](#) (Music Mark)

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