



# Wales Supplement

30 August 2021 (guidance updated 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021)

All of Wales is at [alert level 0](#). There are no limits on the number of people who can gather. Masks are not required in schools but may still be encouraged in communal areas. Social distancing should be maintained as much as possible.

## In school you can:

- Resume all musical activity in the classroom, as it happened up to March 2020 (nothing in the guidance restricts this)
- Resume supervised children’s activities with no limits on numbers ([School operations](#))
- Welcome peripatetic (visiting) teachers into school ([Prevention](#) – Other considerations)
- Mix groups freely ([School operations](#) “schools are not advised to maintain contact groups”)
- Offer educational visits, including residential trips, in the UK, although travel time should be minimised ([School transport](#) – Educational visits)

## In out-of-school settings you can:

- Run out-of-school activities as you did up to March 2020 (nothing in the guidance restricts this)
- Run larger groups and mix groups, although this should still be done with caution ([2. Substitution](#) – Manage contacts)
- Run educational day visits, although travel time should be minimised ([2. Substitution](#) – Taking trips outside the setting)
- Welcome **essential** visitors only ([2. Substitution](#) – Visitors)

## 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
- Limiting contacts and maintaining social distancing in line with alert level 0 (([Prevention](#) – Physical distancing)
- Teaching outdoors whenever possible ([Prevention](#) – Optimising space)
- 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
- 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 Welsh Government. 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 communal 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](#)

WG: [Schools coronavirus \(Covid-19\) operational guidance](#) (updated 27<sup>th</sup> August)

WG: [Childcare](#) (updated various dates during August)

## Adult groups:

Making Music: [Can my group get back to in-person activities?](#) (scroll to bottom and click through)