



In-school music programme guidance

Updated 3.9.2021

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The vital role of music and the arts in supporting mental health, social engagement, and learning is well recognised globally and backed by high quality scientific data. The role of music as part of a broad and balanced curriculum is more important now, during a global crisis than ever.



This excellent Music Mark article outlines many of the benefits to pupils that an involvement in music can provide: [10 things schools should know about music](#)

Music Mark have also produced a detailed guide for school leaders and music providers with regards Music Learning and COVID-19: [Guidance for schools and music providers](#)

All schools should provide:

- A suitable teaching space which takes into consideration the size of the group and type of lesson (e.g. small group or whole class, singing, wind, brass etc)
- Well ventilated teaching spaces where windows can be opened to maintain a good source of fresh air (or mechanical ventilation that introduces fresh air, not recycled air)
- Where possible, a large enough space to ensure that the WM tutor can a distance from pupils in large group lesson for wind, brass and vocal (ideally 2 metres).
- Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes, and bins in all teaching spaces.

Key guidance points

Good hand and respiratory hygiene, and keeping indoor spaces well ventilated are the most important ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

It is no longer necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies and larger ensembles can resume.

It is important to ensure that music lessons take place in well ventilated teaching environments. The size of the room and effectiveness of ventilation remain key to controlling infections.

For larger woodwind and brass ensembles, you may consider allowing more space than usual. The less effective the ventilation and the longer the session, the more distance should be allowed.

Where ventilation is poor additional breaks should be scheduled to ventilate the room.

It is WM policy that Instruments for WCET and peripatetic lessons must not be shared. If a pupil forgets their instrument, a spare should not be used unless it has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Schools should ensure that instruments for WCET are cleaned, logged and clearly labelled for each child before being issued. Please ensure that labels are robust and easily identifiable.

Hand sanitiser, cleaning wipes and a bin must be provided in the teaching spaces by the school.

Risk Assessments

Updated Risk Assessments for all WM in school programmes can [be found here](#). Schools should share their risk assessment with WM tutors.

Lateral Flow Testing

WM tutors will continue to follow individual schools policies on testing (as per summer term 2021). Please speak to your tutors if you have specific requirements.

Tutors have been advised to report test results here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Programme delivery for academic year 2021-22

All Wandsworth Music programmes have been scheduled to return to 'normal' face to face delivery (with some mitigations). We however continue to plan for all eventualities and will work with you to ensure that our programmes can be delivered to accommodate local need and flexibility should restrictions be reintroduced.

Should a tutor be in self-isolation or unable to attend because of local lockdown then we may offer lessons in the following ways:

- **Remotely delivered**, live Zoom lessons from tutor's homes, to the school (monitored by WM core team, in line with our e-learning policy)

- **Pre-recorded video lessons** enabling children to access the lessons via YouTube, seesaw, school websites, individual class home pages etc, along with resources that can be accessed in school and at home.

In the case of a further closure of schools then we will offer one of the following;

- **Live, small group Zoom lessons** delivered from tutor's homes, to children's homes (monitored by WM core team and/or class teachers. WM delivered more than 600 instrumental and singing lessons a week via zoom during the summer.
- **Pre-recorded video lessons** using Summer Term platforms (enabling children to access the lessons via seesaw, school websites, individual class home pages etc), along with resources that can be accessed in school and at home

Whole class & large group teaching

- **Good ventilation:** A large well ventilated room is important for all teaching sessions, however it is especially important for wind, brass and singing. These lessons should only take place in rooms with good sources of external air ventilation (e.g. open windows and doors). Where ventilation is poor (or room size an issue) the lesson length should be reduced and the room left empty and ventilated periodically.
- **Physical distancing:** Although social distancing is no longer required, we recommend the following mitigations:
 - **String & Percussion instruments:** These lessons can be treated the same as all other subjects
 - **Singing, Wind & Brass:** Additional distancing should be considered where possible, subject to room size and amount of ventilation.
 - **Tutors:** We recommend that tutors still distance from the class where possible to avoid unnecessary contacts.
- **For brass instruments:** Water keys should not be vented directly onto the floor. Paper towels should be used to soak up water. These should only be disposed of by the user at the end of the lesson, in a lidded bin.
- **Music** should be displayed on interactive screens. The sharing of sheet music and need for music stands should be avoided.

Small group and 1-1 tuition

- **Teaching room & ventilation:** Individual, and small group lessons should be held in rooms that can be ventilated well. This is especially important for wind, brass and singing.
- **Social distancing** is no longer required, however should be considered depending on room size and ventilation
- **For brass instruments:** Water keys should not be vented directly onto the floor. Paper towels should be used to soak up water. These should only be disposed of by the pupil at the end of the lesson, in a lidded bin. Buzzing creates a large amount of aerosol, avoid doing this as much as possible.
- **Instrument accessories:** All pupils must have their own instrument accessories (e.g. valve oil, reeds, rosin, spare strings, pencil, rubber). These must not be shared. Where possible tutors should show pupils how to complete basic maintenance tasks (e.g. oiling valves, tuning strings) through demonstration and copying on their own instruments.

Guidance for instrument hygiene and cleaning of instruments

Wandsworth Music already have existing protocols in place with regards to instrument hygiene and cleaning. Further information in relation to this can be found in the SLA: <https://wandsworthmusic.co.uk/sla/>

- Wandsworth Music provide free access to musical instruments for all WCET programmes. This ensures that all pupils have their own instrument to play.
- All pupils must be issued with their own instrument. Instruments **must not** be shared between pupils. If additional instruments are required, please let us know.
- All instruments must be clearly marked with the child's name and should be taken home where possible.
- Where tuition continues for the next (new) cohort of pupils, schools are responsible for the appropriate cleaning of instruments (please refer to cleaning guidance below).
- The same is applicable to peripatetic instruments being given to new users.

We recommend collecting instruments and leaving them untouched for at least a week before cleaning as this allows enough time for any potential virus to die on the surface. You should follow good hygiene advice by thoroughly washing your hands and/ or wearing gloves before and after handling instruments.

If instruments have not been played for some time (especially trumpets & French horns) then it is likely that some maintenance will be required (e.g. oiling valves and slides) – if in doubt please contact your music tutor or speak to Chris Spreadbury or Lydia Malitskie who will arrange necessary repairs.

Cleaning instructions:

We recommend collecting instruments and leaving them untouched for at least a week before cleaning as this allows enough time for any potential viruses to dissipate.

In most cases hot soapy water is just as effective as alcohol wipes and spray.

We have previously provided wind and brass schools with Sterisol cleaning spray and mouthpiece brushes – we are happy to provide additional supplies if required, but in most cases, hot soapy water is just as effective as alcohol wipes and spray.

Brass instruments

- Metal mouthpieces can be cleaned in the top rack of a dishwasher, or in hot soapy water with a mouthpiece brush
- Plastic mouthpieces can be sprayed with disinfectant and then cleaned in hot soapy water. (Sterisol Germicide Solution can be safely used on plastics, hard rubbers, and metals)
- Instruments (or parts thereof) made entirely from plastic or brass can be submersed in hot soapy water to remove dirt and germs
- It is recommended that mouthpieces are cleaned every month, following the above advice

Woodwind instruments

- Old reeds should be removed and disposed of. New reeds will be needed for **all** clarinets and saxophones (as in previous years, schools are expected to provide these)
- Recorders can be dish washed in the top rack.
- Saxophone and clarinet mouthpieces can be sprayed with Sterisol Solution and washed in hot soapy water
- Flute head joints can be sprayed with Sterisol Solution and washed in hot soapy water
- Take care not to immerse or soak woodwind instruments with cork joints or keywork as it may damage pads: this includes flute head joints, as it will damage the head cork.
- Some disinfectant products will damage the pads of woodwind instruments and varnished or polished finishes – please see labels and follow manufacturers' instructions before use
- Woodwind instruments should be dried inside and out with swabs or pull-throughs to limit microbial growth. Pupils can do this at home using a cloth/ handkerchief. If possible, run a cleaning rod and cloth through the body of the instrument.

String, percussion, keyboard instruments:

- String, percussion, and keyboard instruments present fewer hygiene issues than wind and brass instruments. They can be solved simply by the player washing their hands before and after use for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Do not use excessive amounts of liquid on wooden instruments
- You may want to wipe the chinrests of violins or violas, but it probably is not necessary (pure sweat is not thought to carry viruses). The neck and fingerboard and the lower end of the bow of all bowed strings may also be wiped.
- Isopropyl alcohol that is above 70% should only be used on the strings and finger and fret boards.
- Plastic piano and electronic keyboards can be sanitised with disinfectant wipes (unplug electronic equipment first). Do not spray them as residues may harm key mechanisms. It is a good idea to dry keys off afterwards.

- Ivory keys will be damaged by most disinfectant products. Clean them with a cloth dipped in hot soapy water and rung out; leave the residue on for thirty seconds and wipe with a dry cloth.

While other potential disinfectants, including alcohol, boiling water, and bleach can be used as general disinfectants, they are not recommended for use on mouthpieces or instruments due to their potential effect on skin, plastics, and metals.

More advice on cleaning different instruments is available from this website:

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812235/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines.pdf>

The Music Industries Association is also gathering relevant information on its website:

<https://www.mia.org.uk/covid-19/>