

For activity-specific risk mitigation, please see the Essex Music Service Covid-19 Risk Assessment on our website ([click here](#)).

What has the Government/Department for Education said?

- Specific HMG/DfE guidance for Music in Schools is here:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#music-dance-and-drama-in-school>

Can we have music tutors in school during the school day?

- Yes.
- 1-to-1 and small group music instrument tuition is part of curriculum delivery in enhancing music curriculum and is not considered extra-curricular (as in an after-school club).
- The DfE's guidance documents for schools have not been updated and there are no further restrictions on visiting teachers in schools.
- The guidance remains the same from 5th November as it does before 5th November.
- As is expected, we are monitoring this regularly and will review our procedures as and when new guidance is published.

Source:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#education-school-college-and-university>

What about extra-curricular music?

- Students can make music together in their bubbles/classes according to the number within that group – this is curricular music, not extra-curricular.
- 'Ensembles' or any type of club provision which would run after school, up to 15 students, would be classified as extra-curricular.
- The guidance states "Training for extra-curricular purposes, for instance as part of clubs, should not take place".
- We understand that this sentence is intended to stop parents leaving home to transport children to out-of-school-hours activities, rather than to take them to and pick them up from school.

Source:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#education-school-college-and-university>

Are musical instruments all safe?

- All instruments are safe.
- For most instruments, 2 metres distancing in both directions is recommended.
- Some woodwind and brass instruments require a little more social distancing, including:
 - Flutes (1.5m in front, and 0.8m from the end of the flute)
 - Trombones (3m x 2m)
- All Essex Music Service in-school tutors have undertaken training specific to social distancing and instrument-specific risk mitigation.

Source: <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-for-Providers-.pdf>

Is singing as safe as speaking?

- Yes. The Government issued guidance on Singing on 20th November:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-suggested-principles-of-safer-singing/covid-19-suggested-principles-of-safer-singing?fbclid=IwAR2EQPm--CbZ4cIT0xtWFLEPrH1KuGP-c8CXyIF-M6w5xPJB-E4m6bYD5Qg>
- Students should be socially distanced, facing in one direction – no loud singing or shouting.
 - The louder the singing, the more aerosols are released – decibel for decibel, aerosol release is comparable whether singing or speaking, so prioritising quiet singing, a beautiful sound and good technique will help control this
 - Smaller children have less lung capacity and therefore less ability to project
- HMG: “No conclusive evidence of higher viral loads through different respiratory activities or that it is the singing activities that are responsible”

Sources:

- pp 5-6, <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-for-Providers-.pdf>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transmission-of-sars-cov-2-and-mitigating-measures-update-4-june-2020>

What do we need for ventilation of spaces?

- As in all spaces, there should be a flow of air through the teaching space.
- MusicMark have produced a flow-chart of checks for Ventilation, linked below.

Source: <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Questions-about-Ventilation.pdf>

My question isn't listed here

- Ask the tutors visiting your school
- Check our Covid-19 page by [clicking here](#)
- Drop us a line by [clicking here](#)

Further Sources:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>
- <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-for-Providers-.pdf>
- <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Children-and-School-Singing-During-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf>
- https://www.ism.org/images/files/ISM-Literature-Review_July-2020_FINAL.pdf
- <https://www.ism.org/news/england-lockdown-updates>