



Music Unlocked: lockdown supplement

Hub Support Programme

5th November 2020

The Government has issued new guidance for the lockdown in England from 5th November to 2nd December 2020:

[New national restrictions from 5 November](#)

[Education and childcare settings: new national restrictions from 5 November 2020](#)

The DfE's [Guidance for full opening: schools](#) and the [OOSS guidance](#) have been updated (current version 5th November 2020) but amendments to the music sections are minimal.

Visiting teachers

The updated guidance confirms that:

- There is **no change** to the guidance that visiting teachers may be welcomed into schools;
- There is **no change** to the provision for all adults, including visiting teachers, to teach across bubbles and groups;
- Peripatetic tutors **can move between schools** and there is no restriction on the number of settings any tutor can visit in one day;
- There is **no new or additional guidance** on what activities or types of tuition visiting teachers may undertake. There is nothing to stop a teacher teaching a mix of class music lessons, whole-class instrumental tuition and individual/small group lessons.

Peripatetic instrumental and vocal lessons

Since visiting teachers were allowed back into schools in September, there has **never been** and there **is still no general prohibition** on any particular instruments, including voice, being taught in school, either individually or in small groups. There is **no longer a limit** on numbers that can play woodwind or brass instruments in whole-class tuition, although room size and ventilation are significant.

Peripatetic lessons which extend beyond the end of the school's timetabled lessons may continue on the basis that they are provided only to pupils of the school, they necessitate no additional travel and they do not expose participants to additional contacts. Schools may define their school day to include this provision.

School-based ensembles

It is not completely clear from the new guidance but colleagues are widely understanding that these can continue on the same basis as before half-term. Musical activity that is part of childcare provided for working families may also continue. Schools may define their school day to include this provision.

Singing

The hazards associated with singing are **not changed** by the lockdown. While many schools will have *spaces* that are not suitable for singing in, there is **no good reason** to impose blanket bans on singing. The [Music Unlocked providers' document](#) gives details of mitigations to consider for singing.

Music Centre activity

The new national restrictions document specifically says that people should not travel to extra-curricular music or drama tuition. All music centre activities and borough/county groups must close for face-to-face provision for the duration of the lockdown.

SEND and Music Therapy

The [Guidance for full opening: special schools](#) has not been updated since 16th October and all provision for in-school activity should continue as previously. In line with mainstream schools, extra-curricular choirs and ensembles which are only provided for their pupils may continue, as can musical activity which forms part of childcare provision for working families.

Music therapists are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council. As the New National Restrictions allow people to access medical care and therapy, music therapy provision can continue.

Residential courses

These do not fall within the few permitted reasons to stay away from home, so may not take place.

Risk assessment

There is **no additional guidance** for assessing hazards posed by music education activity. Existing risk assessments which follow the *Music Unlocked* template risk assessments already assume that there could be contagious individuals in any group.

Music providers and schools should review risk assessments for all activities which are continuing during the lockdown. If the risk assessment process was previously carried out robustly, new or additional mitigations are unlikely to be effective.

Providers and schools are advised to reinforce messaging to staff to ensure compliance.

Ventilation

This remains key to any activity which raises aerosol levels. We will update the [ventilation questions](#) shortly to include advice on ventilating in the colder season.

Communication

We recommend communicating with schools and parents to reaffirm measures that are in place to mitigate Covid-19 risks. We have prepared template letters that providers may wish to adapt for this purpose.