

A safe return to music for children and young people

Introduction

Below is a quick guide to the recently published STAC guidance on the teaching of music in schools.

This addendum is intended to capture the 'headlines', as well as the underlying principles of the STAC guidance, to help you to interpret the guidance effectively.

General

STAC has placed musical activity into 2 categories:

1. **Lower risk activity;** these activities include the teaching, playing and use of keyboards, strings (including guitars and ukuleles etc.) and percussion instruments. This category includes any activity that requires the participant to bow, pluck or strike a string or other surface.
2. **Higher risk activity;** these activities include the teaching, playing and use of brass, woodwind (including recorders, harmonicas etc.) and singing. This category includes any activity that requires the participant to blow, or expel, air.

The guidance published by STAC

<https://www.gov.je/Health/Coronavirus/EducationChildcare/Pages/ReopeningOfSchools.aspx#Music>

lays out in detail the different protocols that apply to each category of activity. This guidance only applies to the delivery of music learning and making for children and young people in a fulltime education setting.

What is allowed?

All one-to-one and paired music lessons are allowed where it can be delivered within the mitigations of the guidance.

Larger groups class groups/ensembles are permitted for category 1 (lower risk activity), provided that physical distancing is maintained, and the group does not exceed 40 (inclusive of children and adults).

If pupils are studying for GCSE or A Level music (or any other public examination board) that requires them to record an ensemble performance, they should use the minimum number of players allowed by the examination board.

Physical distancing

Although physical distancing between children is no longer required in schools it is recommended that a minimum of 1 metre physical distancing between children that are not in the same school bubble or school year grouping is maintained where possible.

A minimum 1 metre physical distance should be maintained from anyone playing a category 1 (lower risk activity) instrument.

3 metres physical distancing should be maintained, wherever practical, and no less than 2 metres from anyone playing a category 2 (high risk activity) instrument.

Cleaning and equipment

Both categories require strict cleaning protocols to be in place which is outlined in the STAC advice.

All instruments and equipment should ideally only be used by one pupil, where this is not possible strict adherence to the cleaning protocols outlined in the STAC guidance should be followed.

Further advice on the cleaning of instruments and equipment can be found at <https://www.jms.je>

Additional information

JMS are continuing to develop the COVID-19 guidance for JMS instrumental teachers / lessons and these will continue to be updated and available to view at <http://www.jms.je/covid-19-advice/>
These resources may help you to interpret the STAC guidance more readily.

Instrument specific guidance for the teaching of singing and instruments can be found on the [JMS website](#)