

## **Guidance for Teaching Brass Instruments from September 2020**

### **General**

- follow the instrument specific guidance provided below
- follow the guidelines outlined in the individual school/college safety plan and risk assessments, and adhere to strict physical distancing and hygiene rules
- limit the amount of contacts made with other adults in school/college, keeping these to an absolute minimum and if possible, for as short as possible (ideally below 15 minutes)
- if a student shows the symptoms of COVID-19 a member of the school staff or the school office should be informed immediately. The school will isolate the child and make arrangements to send them home.

### **A setting-specific assessment should be undertaken, with consideration given to**

- the size of each teaching room; determine how many pupils can use it at any one time while maintaining the relevant physical distances between everybody
- introducing enhanced cleaning of all facilities and equipment
- ensuring physical distancing guidance is followed
- ensuring good hygiene practices are in place
- ensuring that the use of shared instruments and equipment is avoided
- ensuring that all equipment is cleaned and disinfected regularly
- adjusting timetabling/entry procedures to enable pupils to clean instruments and avoid bottle necks at the start and finish of lessons
- good ventilation is recommended in all settings
- if weather permits, is an outside space available

### **Physical distancing**

- a minimum of 1 metre physical distancing between adults, and between adults and children should always be maintained
- 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 of 3 metres physical distancing should be maintained wherever practical and no less than 2 metres from anyone when singing or playing woodwind or brass instruments
- pupils should wash or sanitise their hands before and after each lesson

### **Lesson groups (brass)**

- all one-to-one lessons are permitted if relevant physical distancing (see below) is maintained
- paired teaching is permitted where it can be achieved within the mitigations set out within this guidance.

### **Instruments and equipment (brass)**

- there should be no sharing of instruments
- pupils should not share music stands (where the school is not able to provide enough stands for all students in a group, students should be encouraged to bring their own stand)
- music stands should be wiped by the student at the end of the lesson, ensuring that the wipes are disposed of in a bin
- there should be no sharing of music. Students should keep their own music and bring it to lessons
- ensure that instruments are properly cleaned and dried at the end of each lesson (this can be done outside the teaching room)
- pupils should not be allowed to blow or tip water from instruments in the teaching room
- newspaper or paper towels (or anti- bacterial paper) should be provided for the venting (without blowing) of water keys and pupils should remove and dispose of their own at the end of the lesson
- fully drying even small brass instruments is not practical but it is extremely important to clean the mouthpiece using an appropriately sized mouthpiece brush, to ensure that all dirt and debris are removed
- if maintenance needs to be carried out on a pupil's instrument (stuck valve etc.) wear disposable gloves (disposing of them after use) and adhere to the physical distancing guidance provided above.

### **GCSE and A Level Students**

If pupils are studying for GCSE or A Level music and recording an ensemble performance, a maximum of 3 people can perform/play together for the purposes of assessment, provided that physical distancing is maintained, and all other instrument specific guidance is followed.