

Guidance for Teaching String and Percussion Instruments from September 2020

(Including orchestral strings, guitar, ukulele, keyboard, piano and percussion)

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
- pupils should wash or sanitise their hands before and after each lesson

Lesson groups (strings and percussion)

- all one-to-one, and group lessons are permitted, if relevant physical distancing (see above) is maintained

Instruments and equipment (strings and percussions)

- try to avoid sharing instruments
- if instruments or equipment are used by more than one person (e.g. keyboard, piano, drum kit, tuned percussion, beaters and music stands), thorough cleaning between users is required
- 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
- 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 soapy water and rung out; leave the residue on for thirty seconds and wipe with a dry cloth. Handles and straps of percussion instruments and beaters should be sanitised, as above, or wiped similarly
- each student should bring their own music stand, where this is not possible music stands should be wiped by the student at the beginning and 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 at the end of each lesson (this can be done outside the teaching room)
- where appropriate students should be taught to tune their own instruments
- if it is necessary for the teacher to tune instruments either sanitise before and after, or wear disposable gloves (disposing of them after use) and physical distancing guidance provided above should be strictly adhered to
- if maintenance needs to be carried out on a pupil's instrument either sanitise before and after, or 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.