



Curriculum Teaching

Covid-19 Guidance & Risk Assessment

Key guidelines

- BM staff advised to wear face mask and/or visor at all times
- Retain group size of 30 students
- Teacher must maintain at least a 2m distance from students at all times

Introduction

Berkshire Maestros want children to be able to resume face-to-face music making however we also have to ensure the safety of both children and young people and staff. This guidance and risk assessment is intended to support schools to ensure we can safely engage in face-to-face learning where appropriate from April 2021. We are delighted that the updated DfE guidance supports Music Education Hub teachers to resume attending schools from April.

This guide presupposes that schools are already complying with:

- Social distancing
- Improved hand hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning of school buildings

This document is not intended to cover all risks associated with any activity; it looks only at additional measures to minimise transmission of Covid-19.

Guidance – Curriculum Music

Curriculum music can be taught by peripatetic music teachers in groups of up to 30. In line with DfE guidance, teachers can move across bubbles. It is therefore particularly important that 2m distancing is observed between the teacher and the class.

Teachers should also endeavour to reduce contact between pupils, maintaining distancing in accordance with individual school policy. Good ventilation and airing of rooms is essential. The space should allow for students to be side by side and socially distanced.

For singing activity within a class bubble, the DfE no longer recommends limiting group sizes to 15. It is recommended however that you use a room with as much space as possible, for example, larger rooms (rooms with high ceilings are expected to enable dilution of aerosol transmission) or to take rehearsals outside. Keeping a distance of 2 meters is still advised and we suggest that singing either takes place in a group of 15, outside or in a large, well ventilated space such as a hall.

An alternative is that singing can now take place within a classroom context, at low volume, for a maximum of 10 -15 minutes within a class lesson, provided there is good ventilation and the teacher is distanced from the class.

If instruments are used by more than one person, meticulous cleaning is called for. Instruments should be allocated to one student at the start of the lesson, and not shared between pupils within the class or bubble. Following lessons, instruments must be quarantined for 72 hours or cleaned before being used by any other class or bubble. Berkshire Maestros teachers will also consider the schools own risk assessment regarding the sharing of equipment. Where necessary, Maestros teachers have been given resources and training to enable them to make use of body percussion and everyday objects whilst still providing an effective music curriculum.

Cleaning Instruments

If instruments are used by more than one person, meticulous cleaning is called for:

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.

Knobs, buttons, sliders etc on digital drum kits, amplifiers, CD/MP3 players and so forth should be wiped with antiseptic wipes. Do not use sprays or soaked cloths, to avoid liquids getting inside equipment. Always unplug from the mains before cleaning.

More advice on cleaning different instruments is available from this American website: <https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812235/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines.pdf>

In the UK, the Music Industries Association is gathering relevant information on its website: <https://www.mia.org.uk/covid-19/>.

Good hand hygiene and wiping handling surfaces when changing players controls risks for most keyboard, percussion and string instruments.

Guidelines – BM teaching staff

Our teaching staff will all be given refreshed guidance and training at CPD days at the start of the summer term. They will be informed of the following expectations surrounding their work in schools:

1. Do not attend school if you suspect that you (or any of those you live with) may be coming down with Coronavirus symptoms: follow self-isolation procedures. Request a test-kit from <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>.
2. Keep an eye on the school's website, news links, diary and newsletters to anticipate disruptions to your teaching programme. It may save you a journey and unnecessary risk.
3. Sign in at the school reception on arrival and immediately wash your hands thoroughly before going to the teaching room.

4. You are advised to wear a mask at all times within a school unless you are demonstrating an instrument during a lesson/rehearsal.
5. Remember that this way of working is as new to school staff and pupils as it is to you. Accept that there will be slips and honest mistakes on both sides and take the opportunity to learn from them.
6. Ask for the school's risk assessments for COVID-19; ask about anything you do not understand and abide by the control measures specified i.e. toilet or break provision.
7. Find out what the school's infection control procedures are; follow them and make use of anything the school is good enough to provide for your safety.
8. Find out, before you need to know, what to do if you or pupils fall ill.
9. If you think that a child may be showing symptoms of Coronavirus, stop the lesson and report your concerns to the school immediately.
10. Maintain 2m or more distance from other people at all times, including pupils.
11. If you can control layout and ventilation in the teaching room, set it up to direct airflow away from both you and the pupil(s) but not at the expense of normal safeguarding or health and safety considerations: i.e. do not move heavy furniture.
12. Avoid touching pupils' instruments, particularly mouthpieces. If you require PPE equipment, please contact the Resource Manager at Berkshire Maestros.
13. Never play on a pupil's mouthpiece or allow them to play on yours.
14. Wash your hands thoroughly before leaving the school, preferably as the last thing you do before signing out.

Covid-19 Risk Assessment

Curriculum Teaching

Owner:	Berkshire Maestros		
Version:	3		
Date of assessment:	14.05.2021	Review date:	01.09.2021

Risk

Covid-19 is an illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal.

We are heavily minimising the risk of transmission of the virus, both airborne and surface, by adhering to the Government Education & Performing Arts guidance and have taken the measures outlined in the Risk Assessment below. Government guidance continues to be followed and the risk assessments will be reviewed and updated as and when required in relation to the Governments "Roadmap out of lockdown".

Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. All our teaching staff are requested to have regular Covid19 tests prior to face to face teaching in schools & music centres. You can order test kits for free via the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> Please ensure that you take the Covid19 test every 72 hours (twice a week) and ensure you upload your results within 24 hours on the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> Please ensure you keep a copy of the results (text or email from the NHS) and have the results available to show should this be required.

Description of activity

Whole class instrumental provision led by Berkshire Maestros staff on non-blown instruments across Berkshire.

Control measures

	Hazard	Who is at risk?	Control measure(s)	Who is responsible?
1	Airborne transmission	Everyone	Teachers should aim to reduce contact and maximise distancing between students wherever possible.	Teacher
2	Airborne transmission	Teacher	Teacher(s) at least 2m from the nearest student at all times.	Teacher
3	Airborne transmission	Everyone	Ventilation is key. Keep the windows open even if you have to wear a coat. Ventilate the room frequently after each session.	Teacher
4	Airborne transmission	Everyone	Keep any background or accompanying music to levels	Teacher

			<p>which do not encourage teachers or other performers to raise their voices unduly.</p> <p>Teachers should avoid raising their voice or singing loudly.</p>	
5	Airborne transmission	Teacher	The use of masks is advisable to ensure the safety of staff.	Teacher
6	Surface transmission via shared instruments	Everyone	Note: sharing resources is not considered safe. See above for further information on wiping down between students when sharing is necessary.	Teacher
7	Surface transmission via printed resources	Pupils	If physical resources are used (handout sheets/booklets for example), these should not be shared. Each pupil should have their own copy. Projected resources/interactive whiteboards to be used.	Teacher
8	Surface transmission via equipment used for playing backing tracks or accompanying	Teacher	<p>Cleaning of PC or CD player for backing track or piano/keyboard.</p> <p>Please see above for advice on cleaning equipment.</p>	Teacher

Additional control measures

	Hazard	Who is at risk?	Control measure(s)	Who is responsible?
1	Airborne transmission (vulnerable teacher)	Teacher	Where BM staff have informed us that they are vulnerable, we will send a replacement teacher.	Berkshire Maestros
2	Airborne transmission (vulnerable pupils)	Pupil or pupils	Precautionary measures will be taken as per the above however it is at the parent's discretion as to whether they are happy for their child to resume lessons in this manner.	Parent

Signed:



Date: 17.05.21

Name: D. Wren

Position: CEO