



Guidance for Schools

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Excerpts taken from the Government website relating to Guidance for the Schools Sector and the national Roadmap Out of Lockdown.

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MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA IN SCHOOL

You should continue teaching music, dance and drama as part of your school curriculum, especially as this builds pupils' confidence and supports their wellbeing. There may, however, be an additional risk of infection in environments where singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments, dance or drama takes place.

Singing, wind and brass instrument playing can be undertaken in line with this and other guidance, including guidance provided by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) on [working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the performing arts](#).

Schools can continue to engage peripatetic teachers during this period, including staff from music education hubs. Further information on the music education hubs, including contact details for local hubs, is available at [music education hubs](#) published by the Arts Council England.

Schools that offer specialist, elite provision in music, dance and drama should also consider this guidance alongside the DCMS guidance on the performing arts. Specialist provision delivered by further education (FE) providers or higher education (HE) providers should consider the respective DfE guidance for these sectors.

MINIMISING CONTACT BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS

The overarching objective should be to reduce the number of contacts amongst pupils, and between pupils and staff, including for rehearsal and performance. As set out in the [system of controls](#), this can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in bubbles) and through maintaining social distance between individuals. These are not alternative options. Both measures will help, but the balance between them will change depending on the age of pupils, the layout of the building, and the feasibility of keeping groups separate from each other while offering a broad curriculum.

If staff need to move between classes and year groups, they should try and keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can, ideally 2 metres from other adults.

You should take particular care in music, dance and drama lessons to observe social distancing where possible. This may limit group activity in these subjects in terms of numbers in each group. It will also prevent physical correction by teachers and contact between pupils in dance and drama.

Additionally, you should keep any background or accompanying music to levels which do not encourage teachers or other performers to raise their voices unduly. If possible, use microphones to reduce the need for shouting or prolonged periods of loud speaking or singing. If possible, do not share microphones. If they are shared, follow the guidance on [handling equipment and instruments](#).

PERFORMANCES

You should not host any performances with an audience. You may wish to consider alternatives such as live streaming and recording performances, subject to the usual safeguarding considerations and parental permission.

SINGING, AND PLAYING WIND AND BRASS INSTRUMENTS IN GROUPS

Singing, wind and brass playing should not take place in larger groups such as choirs and ensembles, or assemblies unless significant space, natural airflow and strict social distancing and mitigation can be maintained.

When planning music provision, you should consider additional specific safety measures. There is some evidence that additional risk can build from aerosol transmission with volume and with the combined numbers of individuals within a confined space. This is particularly evident for singing and shouting, but with appropriate safety mitigation and consideration, singing, wind and brass teaching can still take place. The government has published advice on [safer singing](#).

PLAYING OUTDOORS

Playing instruments and singing in groups should take place outdoors wherever possible. If indoors, consider limiting the numbers in relation to the space.

PLAYING INDOORS

If indoors, 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.

If playing indoors, limit the numbers to account for ventilation of the space and the ability to social distance. It is important to ensure good ventilation. Advice on this can be found in Health and Safety Executive guidance on [air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#).

SOCIAL DISTANCING

In the smaller groups where these activities can take place, schools should observe strict social distancing between each singer and player, and between singers and players, and any other people such as conductors, other musicians, or accompanists. Current guidance is that if the activity is face-to-face and without mitigating actions, 2 metres is appropriate. Pupils should use seating where practical to help maintain social distancing.

SEATING POSITIONS

Pupils should be positioned back-to-back or side-to-side when playing or singing (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible. Position wind and brass players so that the air from their instrument does not blow into another player.

MICROPHONES

Use microphones where possible or encourage singing quietly.

HANDLING EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS

Measures to take when handling equipment, including instruments, include the following.

HAND WASHING

Require increased hand washing before and after handling equipment, especially if being used by more than one person.

AVOIDING SHARING INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Avoid sharing equipment wherever possible. Place name labels on equipment to help identify the designated user, for example, percussionists' own sticks and mallets.

If instruments and equipment have to be shared, disinfect regularly (including any packing cases, handles, props, chairs, microphones and music stands) and always between users, following [government guidance on cleaning and handling equipment](#).

Instruments should be cleaned by the pupils playing them, where possible.

HANDLING SCORES, PARTS AND SCRIPTS

Limit handling of music scores, parts and scripts to the individual using them.

SUPPLIERS

Consider limiting the number of suppliers when hiring instruments and equipment. You should agree whose responsibility cleaning hired instruments is with the suppliers. Clean hire equipment, tools or other equipment on arrival and before first use.

Equipment and instruments should be stored in a clean location if you take delivery of them before they are needed, and they should be cleaned before first use and before returning the instrument.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF POINTS

Pick up and drop off collection points should be created where possible, rather than passing equipment such as props, scripts, scores and microphones hand-to-hand.

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS

Individual lessons in music, dance and drama can continue in schools and organisations providing out of school childcare. This may mean teachers interacting with pupils from multiple groups, so you will need to take particular care, in line with the measures on peripatetic teachers.

If there is no viable alternative, music lessons in private homes can resume, following the same guidelines, and additionally following the government guidance for [working in homes](#), and the guidance for [out-of-school provision](#).

In individual lessons for music, dance and drama, social distancing should be maintained wherever possible, meaning teachers should not provide physical correction.



Roadmap out of Lockdown

STEP 2 - NOT BEFORE 12 APRIL 2021

STEP 2

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.

 <p>Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups.</p>	 <p>Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.</p>	 <p>Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas.</p>	
 <p>Libraries and community centres.</p>	 <p>Personal care premises.</p>	 <p>All retail.</p>	 <p>Outdoor hospitality.</p>
 <p>All children's activities, indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).</p>	 <p>Domestic overnight stays (household only).</p>	 <p>Self-contained accommodation (household only).</p>	
 <p>Funerals (30), wakes, weddings, receptions (15).</p>	 <p>Minimise travel. No international holidays.</p>	 <p>Event pilots begin.</p>	

BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES

Step 2, which will be no earlier than 12 April, will see the opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen (but only for use by people on their own or in household groups); as will most outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues, zoos, theme parks, and drive-in cinemas. Self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households, can also reopen.

Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors at Step 2 and there will be no need for customers to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and no curfew, although customers must order, eat and drink while seated ('table service'). Wider social contact rules will apply in all these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.

EVENTS

While funerals can continue with up to 30 mourners, the number of people able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15.

STEP 3 - NOT BEFORE 17 MAY 2021

STEP 3

At least five weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May.

 Indoor entertainment and attractions.	 30 person limit outdoors. Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review).	 Domestic overnight stays.	
 Organised indoor adult sport.	 Indoor hospitality.	 Most significant life events (30).	 Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances).
 Remaining accommodation.	 Most significant life events (30 people). Indoor events: 1,000 people or 50% capacity. Outdoor events: 4,000 people or 50% capacity. Large seated outdoor venues: 10,000 people or 25% capacity. Pilots continue.		 Domestic overnight stays. International travel (subject to review).

SOCIAL CONTACT

As part of Step 3, no earlier than 17 May, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.

This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply - we will keep under review whether it is safe to increase this.

As soon as possible and by no later than Step 3, we will also update the advice on social distancing between friends and family, including hugging. But until this point, people should continue to keep their distance from anyone not in their household or support bubble.

BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES

Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen. In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits. Indoor hospitality will reopen - and as in Step 2, venues will not have to serve a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks; nor will there be a curfew. Customers will, however, have to order, eat and drink while seated.

Other indoor locations to open up in Step 3 include indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; and indoor adult group sports and exercise classes. The government will also allow some larger performances and sporting events in indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number), and in outdoor venues with a capacity of 4,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number). In the largest outdoor seated venues, where crowds can be spread out, up to 10,000 people will be able to attend (or a quarter-full, whichever is lower).

EVENTS

Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.

REVIEW OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

Finally, before Step 4 begins, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home – which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.

STEP 4 - NOT BEFORE 21 JUNE 2021

STEP 4

At least five weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June.
By Step 4, the Government hopes to be able to introduce the following:



No legal limit
(subject to review).



Remaining businesses,
including nightclubs
(subject to review).



Larger events
(subject to review).



International travel
(subject to review).



No legal limit on life events
(subject to review).

SOCIAL CONTACT

By Step 4 which will take place no earlier than 21 June; the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.

BUSINESS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

We hope to reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease the restrictions on large events and performances that apply in Step 3. This will be subject to the results of a scientific Events Research Programme to test the outcome of certain pilot events through the spring and summer, where we will trial the use of testing and other techniques to cut the risk of infection. The same Events Research Programme will guide decisions on whether all limits can be removed on weddings and other life events.

As we move through each of these phases in the roadmap, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives. We are going to have to keep living our lives differently to keep ourselves and others safe. We must carry on with 'hands, face, space'. Comply with the COVID-Secure measures that remain in place. Meet outdoors when we can and keep letting fresh air in. Get tested when needed. Get vaccinated when offered. If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.