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**Guidance for schools Post COVID-19 from the Tees Valley Music Service (TVMS)lead partner in the Music Education Hub for the Tees Valley**

The health and safety of all school students, staff and TVMS teachers is paramount to our work in

partnership with schools.

To ensure that all health and safety precautions are in place we have created this document, in response to the latest update from the Government on 28th August 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> and the DCMS guidance which sits alongside this <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>

We hope that this will allow schools to understand how to help reduce the risks when

pupils are playing instruments or singing.

Here are the main points from the latest government guidance which are relevant to our work in schools:

* Face to face tuition can restart;
* Singing, brass and woodwind tuition can go ahead provided certain mitigating factors are adhered to;
* Minimise mixing of staff and students and keep 2 metres distance from staff members;
* Group numbers may need to be limited (15) and the contact time with teachers may need to be shorter to lessen the risk;
* Keep background and accompanying music to levels which do not encourage teachers and performers to raise their voices unduly;
* Handling of instruments, equipment and furniture – these should be cleaned after every lesson with anti-bacterial wipes or spray and instruments should ideally not be shared amongst students;
* Schools can continue to engage peripatetic teachers during this period, including staff from music education hubs;
* If a teacher is operating on a peripatetic basis, and operating across multiple groups or individuals, it is important that they do not attend a lesson if they are unwell or are having any symptoms associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) such as fever, a new and sustained cough, loss of sense of taste or smell;
* Although singing and playing wind and brass instruments do not currently appear to represent a significantly higher risk than routine speaking and breathing at the same volume, there is now 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;
* Playing instruments and singing in groups should take place outdoors wherever possible. If indoors, consider limiting the numbers in relation to the space (maximum number recommended 15 students in a large space such as a hall, large classroom or studio) and make sure the space is well-ventilated;
* Where possible students should be seated back to back or side to side when singing or playing;
* Handwashing should take place before and after all music lessons;
* Avoiding sharing instruments - instruments and furniture or other equipment used should be cleaned by pupils who have touched it where possible;
* Limit handling of music scores and song-sheets to the individual using them;
* In individual and small group lessons for music, social distancing should be maintained wherever possible, meaning teachers should not provide physical correction and pupil and teacher should be positioned side by side or diagonally of possible;

**TVMS will ensure that the following measures will be taken before the first lesson of the academic year is delivered:**

* All instruments provided to schools will have been professionally cleaned externally (internally where appropriate) before distribution to schools, ready for children to use;
* Each instrument will have a TVMS tag attached to the instrument case or instrument so they can be assigned to individual pupils (further guidance can be found below);
* The space used for lessons should be large enough to keep social distancing to 2 metres in whilst singing or playing a brass or woodwind instrument and 1 metre for handheld instruments. Whilst singing or playing, pupils should face away from other pupils as much as possible. The distance between pupils and teacher should be 2 metres;
* The space used for lessons should be adequately ventilated by keeping internal and external doors open. Opening as many windows as possible is strongly advised;

**TVMS will ensure that the following measures are consistently taken:**

* Instrumental and singing lessons should limit the group sizes to no more than 15 pupils to ensure social distancing. To help ensure pupils can engage with the session effectively the positioning of pupils should be side-to-side. This will allow them to be able to see the teacher and the resources used for teaching;
* Pupils will need to keep and maintain social distancing to 2 metres whilst singing or playing a brass or woodwind instrument. Whilst singing or playing, pupils should face away from other pupils, as much as possible;
* To accommodate this TVMS will split the teaching of classes to 2 x 25/20-minute sessions for 15 pupils or will teach groups on a two-week timetabled basis. This will be negotiated with the school on a case by case basis by members of the TVMS Management Team;
* TVMS will provide each school receiving Whole Class Tuition, Curriculum lessons and small group and one to one instrumental or vocal tuition with a Risk Assessment/s, following guidance from the National Music Educator’s Membership Organisation, Music Mark in order to help mitigate the risks involved;
* Lessons will not use activities which require hand holding or touching pupil’s own face;
* It is imperative that no instrument is shared between pupils (even when instruments are taken home), school staff or TVMS teachers. TVMS will ensure that enough instruments are available on loan so that students can be assigned one each;

**Schools will ensure that the following measures are consistently taken:**

* Provide a large teaching space for whole class work (school halls would be the most ideal) to ensure that Government social distancing guidelines are adhered to;
* It is advised that pupils bring their own seats (if needed) to the hall, reducing the risk of infection, or chairs should be sprayed with anti-bacterial spray at the end of each session;
* Schools will provide TVMS with copies of their Risk Assessments, in line with Government guidance;
* School staff to support with the social distancing of students;
* All instruments will need to be assigned to an individual pupil (apart from Samba/Taiko/African Drums/Steel Pan instruments) placing a white sticky label on to the TVMS tags, which will already be attached to the instrument case or instrument. We request that schools ensure this happens before the first session. Recorders and penny whistles are to be allocated to students by a number, because it is not possible to attach a tag, meaning each pupil will need allocating an individual instrument. Pupils will be instructed to put their recorder or penny whistle in their own tray at the end of each session, unless they are taking it home, where it should be placed in their bag. A master list of instruments allocated to the pupils will be kept by the school and by the TVMS Resource Department;
* If a tag falls off an instrument, it must be reattached. If the tag becomes broken, each school will be provided with spares;
* Ensure that larger instruments (e.g. trumpet and ukulele) kept on school site are locked away securely to avoid cross contamination from children accessing the instrument;
* Ensure students have access to soap and water to maintain good hand hygiene. Students

should wash their hands before and after their music lessons;

**TVMS Teachers will understand and adhere to the following guidance:**

* Teachers will wash their hands-on arrival to each school and use hand sanitiser between each lesson;
* Teachers will ensure that social distancing is adhered to for the duration of the visit at each school;
* Teachers should only touch a pupil’s instrument if there is a problem with it e.g. tuning a ukulele. If handling of the instrument is required, teachers must do the following for each instrument they need to touch:
* Wash their hands or use hand sanitising gel before touching the instrument;
* Resolve the problem with the instrument;
* Wash their hands again or use hand sanitising gel;

**Instruments**

The learning and playing of each instrument TVMS provides has been carefully considered. Strategies to reduce the risk for each can be found below, so please read the relevant instrument information for your school.

**Guitars and Ukuleles**

* It is important that ukuleles and guitars are in tune when playing them. Therefore, tuning should be done before the lesson starts;

**Samba/Taiko/African Drumming/Steel Pan Instruments**

* Pupils should only use 1 instrument per session and clean it themselves using anti-bacterial wipes at the end of each lesson. For some instruments e.g. Taiko and Steel Pans extra drum-sticks and beaters will be provided so that each player has their own set to use during a lesson.

**Brass and Woodwind Instruments**

* Part of learning a woodwind or brass instrument requires pupils to blow air or buzz their lips as they learn to make a sound on the instrument. To reduce the risk of infection brass and woodwind tutors will instruct pupils to blow or buzz directly into their hand;
* Every pupil should ensure they have a throw away paper towel to capture water which potentially escapes from their instrument. This should only be handled by the individual and thrown away into a bin immediately after each session;
* A common issue with trumpet and cornets is that valves become sticky, making it difficult for pupils to play. Therefore, they have been fully serviced (internally and externally) by the TVMS Resources Department to ensure that valves move freely, without becoming stuck. In September TVMS will ensure that all trumpets and cornets will have new valve oil applied, further ensuring the valves remain working;
* If an instrument cannot be fixed, a spare cleaned instrument can be provided by TVMS at the earliest opportunity;
* To help reduce the risk of aerosol transmission, penny whistles and recorders should be aimed towards the floor. Tutors will teach pupils how to hold the instrument correctly with the correct posture;

**Large Group/Whole Class Singing**

* This activity should be done in a well-ventilated Hall or outside if weather permits so students can socially distance and there should be no more than 15 students taking part in this activity in 20-25 minute slots at any one time.
* Singing should only be done as a whole group activity in bursts of 5 or 10 minutes at a time and the rest of the time will be used to do mini-masterclasses with soloists, musicianship training, aural training, theory and listening. Students will be set songs to rehearse which can be saved on the school learning platforms which they will be encouraged to work on and learn at home from one week to the next.

**Curriculum Lessons and PPA**

* Where possible and in schools where it is safe to do so Curriculum lessons can be delivered by TVMS staff to groups of up to 15 students at a time. This may mean that classes have to be split in two initially until government guidance changes to allow the teaching of larger numbers of students at one time. Additional resources to support self-study will be made available to schools to put on their learning platforms.

**Small Group and One to One Instrumental and Vocal Lessons**

We will be able to resume these one to one and small group lessons as soon as possible if a suitable teaching room can be made available.

**The key risk assessment points are:**

* Normal social distancing is required as well as hand hygiene etc;
* There must be a large enough space in the teaching room to allow for this safely;
* Appropriate ventilation must be available in the teaching room;
* There will be a ‘One in - One out’ system for students;
* There will be no sharing of instruments or equipment between student and teacher or from student to student;
* Any equipment or furniture used during the lesson will be wiped down with anti-bacterial wipes/sanitising spray;

**Grant-funded offers such as Five-Week recorder for Year 4 and Snappy Classroom for Reception and Year 1**

These sessions have been timetabled for the year. If TVMS is unable to deliver the sessions because of risks of Covid 19 to TVMS or school staff and students there may not be a possibility of rearranging these as face to face sessions this year, but we will provide video resources as a substitute.

**Large-Scale Snappy Big Sing Events**

Snappy Christmas will run as ‘virtual’ event this coming term with downloadable resources made available to all schools. There will be a Snappy Christmas Celebration Day in December where videos of schools singing their chosen songs will be made promoted on TVMS social media channels.

**TVMS Workshops**

The workshops will be fitted in throughout the year when it is deemed safe by the school and TVMS for these to take place.