

DfE: Guidance for full opening: schools 02.07.20

Many thanks to Anne Vernon for sending this to BAMT

Relevant Sections for MUSIC THERAPISTS

Education and childcare during coronavirus DfE: Guidance for full opening: schools (2/7/20)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

School leaders will be best placed to understand the needs of their schools and communities, and to make informed judgments about how to balance delivering a broad and balanced curriculum with the measures needed to manage risk.

Distancing

Ideally, **adults should maintain 2 metre distance** from each other, and from children. We know that this is **not always possible**, particularly when working with younger children, but if adults can do this when circumstances allow that will help. In particular, they should **avoid close face to face** contact and minimise time spent within 1 metre of anyone. Similarly, **it will not be possible when working with many pupils who have complex needs or who need close contact care. These pupils' educational and care support should be provided as normal.**

For children old enough, they should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible. This will not be possible for the youngest children and some children with complex needs and it is not feasible in some schools where space does not allow. Schools doing this where they can, and even doing this some of the time, will help. When staff or children cannot maintain distancing, particularly with younger children in primary schools, the risk can also be reduced by keeping pupils in the smaller, class-sized groups described above.

Therapists

Supply teachers, peripatetic teachers and/or other temporary staff can move between schools. They should ensure they minimise contact and maintain as much distance as possible from other staff. Specialists, **therapists**, clinicians and other support staff for **pupils with SEND** should provide **interventions as usual.**

Instruments

Classroom based resources, such as books and games, **can be used and shared within the bubble**; these should be **cleaned regularly**, along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment should be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always **between bubbles**, or **rotated** to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles.

Music Sessions

Schools should note that there **may be an additional risk of infection** in environments where you or others are **singing, chanting**, playing wind or brass instruments or **shouting**. This applies even if

individuals are at a distance. Schools should consider how to reduce the risk, particularly when pupils are playing instruments or singing in small groups such as in music lessons by, for example, physical distancing and playing outside wherever possible, **limiting group sizes** to no more than 15, positioning pupils back-to-back or **side-to-side**, avoiding sharing of instruments, and ensuring **good ventilation**. Singing, wind and brass playing **should not take place in larger groups** such as school choirs and ensembles, or school assemblies. Further more detailed DfE guidance will be published shortly.