



## **Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) in Schools Covid-19 Guidance & Risk Assessment for Blown (Brass & Woodwind) Instruments**

### **Introduction**

Because of the wide-ranging benefits that music education provides, we are keen to resume as many activities as possible from September 2020. We do however have a duty to ensure the safety of both children & young people and our staff. This guidance and risk assessment is intended to support schools and MPN staff to ensure that we can safely resume face-to-face learning where appropriate from September 2020. This guide presupposes that schools and providers are already complying with:

- pupil bubbles and social distancing of adults;
- improved hand hygiene;
- enhanced cleaning of school building and other settings;
- normal considerations regarding noise levels;
- maintaining vocal health i.e. singing safely;
- lifting (manual handling) and posture.

This document is not intended to cover all risks associated with any activity: it looks only at additional measures to minimise transmission Covid-19. Existing risk assessments still apply.

### **Whole-Class Ensemble Tuition**

Extended social distancing for these activities appears to have been lifted, although it continues to be recommended as a mitigation, particularly for singing and playing mouth-blown instruments. At present we are recommending group sizes of up to 15 for singing and mouth-blown instruments unless a larger room is available (such as a school hall with a higher ceiling). For a 'normal' classroom we are recommending groups of up to 15. There is a recognised risk from the accumulation of aerosols, so the need to ventilate space is heightened.

Instruments cannot be shared safely and children must play only on their own, allocated instrument for the duration of the project. Sharing mouth-blown instruments is not considered safe. Tutors should also impress on students that they should not share instruments even with family members.

Water keys should not be vented directly onto the floor. Newspaper, paper towels or puppy pads should be provided to soak up water. Alternatively, a small pot containing detergent would also be effective.

Tutors may wish to wear face masks or visors.

If used, 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 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 electrical items from the mains before cleaning.

Tutors should ensure that they social distance as much as possible from other adults and from older students. Social distancing of pupils within bubbles will not be effective and may be deprioritised unless the school's risk assessment says otherwise, e.g. because of a vulnerable member of class.

To avoid sorting through and handling multiple, near-identical cases, it is a good idea for cases to be clearly marked.

## **Guidelines –MPN Teaching Staff**

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

1. Do not attend school if you suspect that you (or anyone you live with) may be coming down with Coronavirus symptoms: follow the current self-isolation procedures
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. 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.
5. Ask for the school's risk assessments for COVID-19 and for music teaching; ask about anything you do not understand and abide by the control measures specified.
6. 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.
7. Find out, before you need to know, what to do if you or pupils fall ill.
8. If you think that a child may be showing symptoms of Coronavirus, stop the lesson and report your concerns to the school immediately.
9. Teach outside if it is practical and weather permits.
10. Observe current social distancing guidelines at all times (but don't use your instrument cases to enforce this in narrow corridors!). You may wish to consider wearing a mask when moving around the school.
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: e.g. do not move heavy furniture or equipment.
12. If the teaching room does not allow for sufficient distancing, explain this to the school. If no reasonable alternative is offered, politely decline to teach that session for the benefit of both you and pupils. If you have one, raise the issue with your manager or equivalent immediately.
13. You may consider wearing a face mask while you are teaching (of course singing, woodwind and brass teachers will need to remove theirs to demonstrate).

14. Avoid touching pupils' instruments, particularly mouthpieces. Carry disposable gloves and hand sanitiser in case you absolutely have to touch a mouthpiece or instrument, e.g. to set a reed to to fix a stuck valve.
15. Never play on a pupil's mouthpiece or allow them to play on yours.
16. Stick to the agreed timetable as closely as you reasonably can but understand if it has to change at short notice.
17. Wash your hands thoroughly before leaving the school, preferably as the last thing you do before signing out.

# Covid-19 Supplementary Risk Assessment

Whole-Class Ensemble Tuition (non-blown instruments)

Owner:	Music Partnership North		
Version:	2		
Date of assessment:	3/9/2020	Review date (max 1 yr):	, 8/1/2021

## Description of activity

Whole-class tuition of mouth-blown instruments – taught in bubbles of up to 15 pupils. Led by a MPN tutor, with support from a member of school staff.

## Control measures

	Hazard	Who is at risk?	Control measure(s)	Who is responsible?
1	Airborne transmission	Everyone	The DfE no longer recommends limiting group sizes to 15. Social distancing of children is not necessary within bubbles, but we still recommend some distancing (as the room allows) and not singing face-to-face, to control the risk from large water droplets.	MPN Tutor & School Staff
2	Airborne transmission	Adults	Teacher(s) at least 2m from the nearest player at all times and 3m when practical. If the teacher is facing the class, they should aim for a distance of 4-5m from the nearest player.	MPN Tutor
3	Surface transmission via mouthpieces	Everyone	Sharing instruments is not considered safe. Mouth-blown instruments must be allocated to a	MPN Tutor & School Staff

			specific individual child for the duration of each project. Instruments must be kept matched up with the correct case. Each instrument case should be clearly labelled. Teachers must not play on students' instruments, even to diagnose a problem.	
4	Surface transmission	Everyone	<p>If physical resources (handout sheets/booklets for example) these should not be shared. Each pupil should have their own copy for the duration of the programme. Projected resources/interactive whiteboards may also be used.</p> <p>Tutors should carry disposable gloves and hand sanitiser in case they have to touch a mouthpiece or instrument, e.g. to set a reed to fix a stuck valve.</p>	MPN Tutor

## Additional control measures

	Hazard	Who is at risk?	Control measure(s)	Who is responsible?
1	Airborne transmission	MPN Tutor	The use of masks is advisable to ensure the safety of staff.	MPN Tutor
2	Airborne transmission (vulnerable teacher)	MPN Tutor	Where MPN staff have informed us that they are vulnerable, they will need to work in line with their personalised risk assessment. We may look into offering online tuition or sending an alternative member of staff to school.	MPN
3	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 or would prefer online lessons.	Parent

## Risk

Covid-19 is a new 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 guidance above and in the Risk Assessment. Government guidance will be followed at all times and the above reviewed where required with an initial review date in October.

**Date communicated to staff:** 7/9/2020

**Signed:** *D Francis*

**Date:** 3/9/20, Reviewed 21/10/20

**Name:** D Francis

**Position:** Acting Lead Officer